

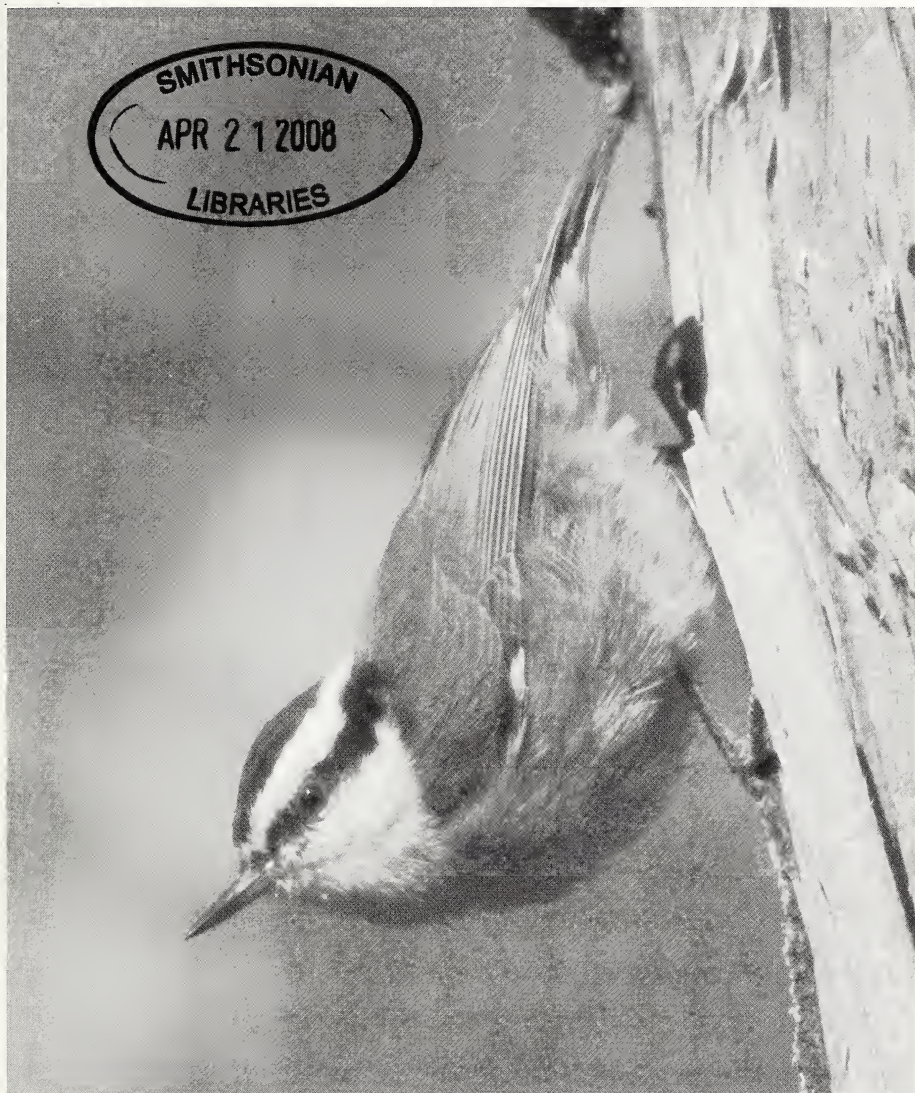
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The Chat

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Survey of Wintering Loggerhead Shrikes in South Carolina Including Stable Hydrogen Isotope Feather Analysis

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Introduction

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) populations are in decline in the southeastern United States, prompting several states to initiate population studies of both breeding and wintering populations. We report here the results of a survey of wintering shrikes in two upstate western piedmont counties and two lower state counties. In South Carolina, both wintering and breeding habitats occur, and determination of resident versus migrant status of the South Carolina wintering shrike population is problematic, since little information has been obtained from conventional banding techniques in this species. Recently, stable hydrogen isotope analysis of feathers has been utilized to assist in this determination (Hobson and Wassenaar 2001, Perez and Hobson 2006). We sampled shrike feathers and analyzed these for stable hydrogen isotope (δD) values in order to assist in the identification of resident versus migrant individuals. In addition, we assayed blood samples for parasite loads. Our objectives were to determine the breeding origins of Loggerhead Shrikes wintering in South Carolina and to evaluate whether such origins varied within the state or with land-use practices. We also were interested in evaluating whether breeding origin and wintering location were correlated with basic health parameters such as parasite load and body mass.

Methods

The study areas were four counties in South Carolina, two in the upstate western piedmont region (latitude N34.1) and two lower state counties (latitude N33.3–33.4). Loggerhead Shrikes were lured with bal-chatri noose traps containing house mice (*Mus musculus*) during the non-breeding season, defined as November through February (Cely and Sorrow 1988; deMent and deMent 2001). All Loggerhead Shrikes seen were exposed to these noose traps and if captured, banded according to Master Banding Permit 22771 restrictions. A total of 54 birds were studied from 2001 through 2006, with blood collected for smear analysis, air dried and later stained with Wright/Giemsa stain as previously reported (deMent and deMent 2001). Qualitative analysis for hematzoa was performed by two pathologists on 54

blood films (deMent et al. 2002). Body mass was recorded to the nearest gram, wing chord measured to the nearest millimeter (mm), and site and date of capture recorded. Birds were aged as Hatch Year (HY) or After Hatch Year (AHY) (North American Bird Banding Manual 1991, 1997). All birds were photographed on site, thereby documenting background habitat. A single outer rectrix was collected and placed in a paper envelope for later batch mailing to the Environment Canada stable isotope facility in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. A total of 19 rectrices were randomly analyzed for stable hydrogen isotope (deuterium) values (δD) in a blinded fashion. A Eurovector 3000™ (Milan, Italy) high temperature elemental analyzer (EA) with autosampler was used to automatically pyrolyse feather samples to a single pulse of H_2 gas (and N_2 and CO gas). The resolved H_2 sample pulse was then introduced to the isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Micromass Isoprime™ [Manchester, England] with electrostatic analyser) via an open split capillary. All deuterium isotope values are reported in delta notation (δ) parts per thousand (‰) relative to the international standards VSMOW/SLAP. A method of comparative equilibration was used to adjust for exchangeable hydrogen in feathers (Wassenaar and Hobson 2003). and so all values presented are for the non-exchangeable portion of feathers. Inter-group statistical analyses were performed using Tukey t test comparisons (GraphPad Instat).

Results

A total of 54 Loggerhead Shrikes were captured from 2001 through 2006. The birds were captured in Abbeville and Newberry (upstate western piedmont) Counties, and Clarendon and Williamsburg (lower state) Counties. Field hours at each banding location were 88 hours in Abbeville Co., 63 hours in Newberry Co., 22 hours in Clarendon Co., and 20 hours in Williamsburg Co. Thirty Loggerhead Shrikes were captured in the upstate, requiring 151 field hours, while 24 Loggerhead Shrikes were captured in the lower state, requiring 42 field hours. There were no retraps or foreign band encounters during the study interval. Fifty-four smears were evaluated, with blood hematozoa identified in four specimens (7.4%). *Hemoproteus* species were the only hematozoa identified, with no *Plasmodium* or *Leukocytozoan* spp. identified. When body mass was analyzed, birds from Abbeville County were significantly lighter than birds in both Clarendon and Williamsburg Counties, while no other statistical differences were noted. There were no significant differences in body mass of birds trapped in Abbeville and Newberry Counties (Table 1).

Stable isotope analysis on 19 rectrices showed more enriched deuterium levels (i.e. higher feather δD values) for the combined upstate counties compared to lower state counties ($P \leq 0.05$, Table 1). Clarendon, Williamsburg, and Newberry County banding locations are highly agricultural with extensive cultivation in the areas studied, while Abbeville County is predominantly pasture with minimal cultivation in the landscape

studied (Table 2). No differences among groups for wing chord were identified.

Table 1. Comparison of Loggerhead Shrikes in two upstate and two lower state counties of South Carolina.

County	Upstate		Lower state	
	Abbeville	Newberry	Clarendon	Williamsburg
Latitude	N34.1	N34.1	N33.4	N33.3
N	24	6	8	16
Mean mass (g)	48.0 ± 3.1	49.3 ± 2.4	51.9 ± 3.8	52.4 ± 3.0
Parasites	2/24	0/6	1/8	1/16
Deuterium ratios * (per mil)	-30.7 ± 5.5 (n=12)		-44.0 ± 6.5 (n=7)	
Wing chord (mm)	95.5 ± 2.4	98.0 ± 3.1	96.5 ± 1.2	95.5 ± 2.1

* Nineteen rectrices were studied for stable hydrogen isotope (deuterium), with number captured in each group expressed in parentheses.

Discussion

In a breeding season study of Loggerhead Shrikes in Arkansas, reproductive success was positively associated with cultivation landscapes compared to pastureland (Norris et al. 2001). We identified significantly heavier Loggerhead Shrikes in counties that were predominantly cultivated compared to pasturelands. Comparison of county-wide farming practices indicates that in Abbeville County the predominant farming practice is beef cattle and the predominant landscape is pastureland (Table 2). Conversely, Newberry County, which has similar piedmont clay soil, has more cultivated lands used to raise feed grains for dairy and chicken farming. The two lower state counties (Clarendon and Williamsburg) also have more cultivation on a sandy soil conducive to row crop farming practices. Cultivated fields may improve access to prey for Loggerhead Shrikes with resultant increased body mass in the lower state counties. Furthermore the growing season is also slightly longer in the lower state compared to the upstate, which may provide more abundant prey opportunities over the extended growing season. In this study we are unable to ascertain the effect of a bird's sex on body mass.

Loggerhead Shrikes were more plentiful in the lower state compared to western piedmont, a fact reflected in the reduced field time required for capture. Although smaller pastures surrounded by woody areas are more plentiful in the piedmont and may reduce chances to recognize birds for capture, it took 151 field hours to capture 30 birds in the upstate compared to 42 hours to capture 24 birds in the lower state.

Table 2. Comparisons of farming practices in 4 counties of South Carolina.

Farm practice*	Upstate		Lower state	
	Abbeville Co.	Newberry Co.	Clarendon Co.	Williamsburg Co.
Corn (acres)	nr	4,500	35,700	14,200
Cotton (acres)	300	800	2000	22,500
Hay (acres)	10,300	10,800	2100	2800
Peanuts (acres)	nr	nr	nr	4200
Wheat (acres)	nr	4800	15,500	5700
Soybeans (acres)	nr	3200	35,900	26,200
Tobacco (acres)	nr	nr	800	2600
Cattle (head)	19,100	25,100	4400	4000
Broilers (birds)	nr	5,583,000	13,395,000	1,445,000
Turkeys(birds)	nr	387,000	nr	nr
Land in farms (acres) #	95,170	103,570	147,890	205,904
Pastureland (acres)	24,000	15,600	nr	nr
cropland (acres)	35,100	43,000	91,800	100,900
woodlands (acres)	31,600	40,500	48,400	88,900

* 2005 U.S. Department of Agriculture Quickstats.

2002 U.S. Department of Agriculture Census data

nr = none reported

Bird feathers retain stable hydrogen isotope information which depends upon the isotopic landscape or isoscape where the feather is generated. Feather keratin, once formed, is isotopically inert apart from a small amount of exchangeable hydrogen that is accounted for in the analytical process (Wassenaar and Hobson 2003). Furthermore, feather molt is predictable, symmetrical and typically occurs prior to migration in Loggerhead Shrike (Miller 1928; Perez and Hobson 2006). Feather δD values are strongly correlated with those of foodwebs (Hobson and Wassenaar 1997) which, in turn, follow a strong latitudinal pattern in North America (e.g. Meehan et al. 2004; Hobson 2005). A large series of feather analyses of raptors has better defined predicted feather δD values in different regions of North America for that taxonomic group of birds (Lott and Smith 2006). Interestingly, counties near coastal South Carolina have a relative depletion of predicted

precipitation or feather deuterium compared to more northern latitudes in South Carolina (Meehan et al. 2004; Lott and Smith 2006), a reversal of the general continent-wide trend. Roughly the site of feather growth can be predicted with a resolving power of about 1.5 degrees of latitude (Hobson 2005). Our study of 19 rectrices supports that finding in wintering Loggerhead Shrikes and suggests that Loggerhead Shrikes in South Carolina are resident and not migrant, as was also found in an isotopic study of shrikes wintering in Georgia (Hobson and Wassenaar 2001). In that study, feathers with lower δD values (or more depleted in deuterium) were identified in several wintering Loggerhead Shrikes taken at Florida locations, suggesting the occurrence of migrant shrikes from more northern locations. Perez and Hobson (2006) recently determined that for northern breeding populations of Loggerhead Shrike there is an increased probability that the outer rectrix can be molted on the wintering grounds. This determination suggests that studies using this feather for analysis will tend to underestimate the proportion of migrants in a wintering population. Nevertheless, those authors expected this to be the case only for shrikes at the northern limits of their range since they have a shorter period in which to complete molt prior to migration. We think that our isotopic data make a strong case for South Carolina birds being residents year-round.

Blood parasite studies in Loggerhead Shrikes did not identify significant numbers infected (7.4 %) or adverse effect on body mass. All birds captured were healthy and without external parasites or deformities noted.

Conclusions

Loggerhead Shrikes in two regions (upstate western piedmont and lower state) of South Carolina were studied, with heavier birds identified in the lower state, perhaps related to cultivated landscapes compared to pasturelands. Loggerhead Shrikes were more plentiful in the lower state, as supported by field observation and time required to capture the birds. Blood parasitemia appeared inconsequential in South Carolina Loggerhead Shrikes. Randomly analyzed rectrices from 19 individuals from both upstate and lower state locations were used for δD analysis. The results were consistent with those expected for the South Carolina regions, and suggested Loggerhead Shrikes in South Carolina are non-migratory residents. The possibility remains that a northern migrating Loggerhead Shrike could molt its outer rectrix on wintering grounds and regenerate the feather in South Carolina causing underestimation of migrants from more northern latitudes. However, the predicted stable hydrogen isotope values for the latitudes studied are consistent with a resident population.

Acknowledgements

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Giemsa stains on blood films at Self Regional Hospital in Greenwood, SC, and Allen deMent who assisted in bird captures. Dr. Charles Schwartz provided gray laboratory mice for trap lures.

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2007 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.¹, Chair, Keith E. Camburn, Samuel
Cooper, Richard J. Davis, Eric V. Dean, Wayne K.
Forsythe, Russell L. Tyndall

¹N.C. Natural Heritage Program, 1601 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 2007. There were no changes to the membership of the committee during the year. Committee voting information is referenced in parentheses (i.e., year report received, reference number).

Accepted as Valid

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs and/or written descriptions of all accepted records have been deposited in the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) (07-14). Over the winter of 2006–07, two or three were seen at the Pungo unit of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County by Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, and other observers. The committee accepted photos taken by Ricky Davis and Curtis Dykstra, a month apart, and considered these as a single record. This is the fourth accepted state record, several with photos; thus, the species is already on the Official List. Several other reports are available for review.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) (07-17). A pair was present at a lake in Sunset Beach, Brunswick County, for most of October and November 2007. The male of the pair was first seen and identified by Randy Climpson, and many other birders saw both ducks later in the fall. The committee accepted photos taken by John Ennis, Ricky Davis, and David Lenat, and written descriptions provided by Climpson. The committee also “accepted as valid” the origin of the birds, which might be from the established and “countable” breeding population in coastal South Carolina. This represents the second accepted record for the species in North Carolina; as the previous record was also of a photographed pair of birds, the species is already on the Official List.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (07-11). A male was seen at Lake Brandt in Guilford County on 18 February 2007 by Henry Link and others, and it remained for about a week. The committee accepted photos taken by Lou Skrabec and Melissa Whitmire. This is the first state record away from tidal waters; the species is already on the Official List, with many coastal records.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (07-03). Ricky Davis observed one in breeding plumage on Lake Tahoma, McDowell County, on 6 May 2007, but only one or two other observers were able to see the bird, on 6–7 May. The committee accepted written details provided by Davis. Though there are many records from the immediate coast (essentially all from the inshore ocean and observed from land), this is the first inland state record.

European Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) (07-13). One was observed by Brian Patteson, Steve Howell, and many other birders on a pelagic trip off Hatteras, Dare County, on 28 May 2007. The committee accepted two photos taken by Howell. This is the third accepted state record, though a handful of other reports have been made offshore in the past few years. The species is already on the Official List, as one of the previously accepted records was of a photographed individual.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel (*Fregetta tropica*) (07-10). One was seen on a pelagic trip off Hatteras on 23 June 2007. Many people observed the bird, including Brian Patteson, the trip leader. The committee accepted photos taken by Harold Stiver. Remarkably, this is the third record of the species for the state, each of which has been documented by photos, and thus the species is already on the Official List.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (07-08). An immature, in intermediate to dark phase, was seen by Harry LeGrand on 17 December 2006 at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County. It remained for the entire winter and was seen by several dozen birders. The committee accepted a written description by LeGrand and photos taken by Ricky Davis and David Lenat. This is at least the tenth state record, and the species is already on the Official List. However, this represents the first record of a member of the species spending the winter in North Carolina and probably one of the few such records north of Florida.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) (07-04). One was first observed by Robin Wood at Wrightsville Beach on 7 April 2007, and it remained for several days. The committee accepted photos taken by Walker Golder and John Ennis. This is the third state record, all from the coast in spring; as the second record was documented by photographs, the species is already on the Official List.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) (07-15). A male was seen by Dick Barmore and Elizabeth White at their feeders near Arapahoe, Pamlico County, on 21 October 2007. It was seen by a number of other observers over the next two days. The committee accepted photos and a written description provided by Barmore. This is the first record of the species for the state, and acceptance of the photos places the species directly onto the Official List.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (07-01). One was found near Goldsboro, Wayne County, on 9 January 2007 by Mary Bridges, and dozens of birders saw the flycatcher for the remainder of the winter. The committee accepted photos provided by John Ennis, Kent Fiala, Michael McCloy, Jeff Pippen,

and Harry Sell. The species is already on the Official List, and this is now the fifth accepted state record.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (07-02). Allen Bryan discovered a female near Bettie in Carteret County on 17 December 2006, and many people observed it until at least 4 February (Chat 71:46). The committee accepted photos taken by Harry Sell. This becomes the fourth accepted state record; the species is already on the Official List.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (07-12). One was seen on 7 January 2007 at North River Farms in Carteret County by John Fussell and others. The committee accepted photos taken by Jeff Lewis. There are now about a dozen state records; thus, the species is already on the Official List.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (07-16). John Fussell observed an individual, and later heard it singing in response to tapes, in eastern Carteret County on 4 November 2007. The vireo was seen by a handful of other birders over the next few days; and the committee accepted photos taken by Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, and John Dole, as well as a written description provided by Harry LeGrand. This is the third accepted state record; because a record with photos was accepted in 2006, the species is already on the Official List.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*) (07-06). One male in breeding plumage was observed by Floyd Williams at Merchants Millpond State Park in Gates County on 21 April 2007. The committee accepted his written description. The Avendex database lists seven previous records of this subspecies (plus one obviously erroneous one). However, this appears to be the first report of the subspecies to be reviewed by the committee. Because the "Audubon's" Warbler was formerly considered as a separate species from the common eastern "Myrtle" Warbler, because the subspecies are distinguishable in the field, and as the two taxa might again be split into separate species in the future, the committee deems it important to review reports of "Audubon's" Warbler.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (07-07). One bird, considered to be a female, appeared in Judy Murray's yard in Chapel Hill in January 2005, and what is assumed to be the same individual appeared in her yard during the following winter. The committee decided to consider the two sightings to represent a single record, and it accepted photos taken of the bird by Will Cook on 18 January 2005 and 4 March 2006. This might be the first photographic documentation of the subspecies in North Carolina.

Unaccepted Sighting

The bird is judged to be a species other than that reported, or the bird is insufficiently documented to identification of the species reported.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (07-09) (*Picoides dorsalis*). One was described on a Rare Bird Sighting Report form from a piedmont county in July 2007. There are no state records for this boreal species, and it would only be expected in the middle of winter. The committee unanimously failed

to accept the report, which most likely referred to an oddly-pigmented Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (07-05). One reported from Montgomery County in May 2007 was not accepted. There were no photos to accompany the written description. As the species is essentially extirpated as a breeding species from the Carolinas (i.e., the mountain region), and is now a very rare stray, a report of a Bewick's Wren in late spring in the eastern piedmont almost surely represents a misidentified Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).

Bahama Mockingbird (*Mimus gundlachii*) (07-18). A written report of an adult, from Guilford County in August 2007, was not accepted. The report was almost certainly that of a Northern Mockingbird (*M. polyglottos*). There are no state records for this essentially non-migratory species of the West Indies; all records from the United States through 2001 are from Florida (American Birding Association 2002).

Discussion

The review of reports by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee for 2007 resulted in adding one species to the state's Accepted List; Buff-bellied Hummingbird is added to the Official List. Two species were reported/accepted on inland waters for the first time: Harlequin Duck and Pacific Loon. The current Official List is now 452 species, and the Provisional List is 14 species, for a total of 466 species on the state's Accepted List.

Acknowledgments

In addition to the many people named above who provided written material and photographs for the committee to review, we thank Kent Fiala—webmaster of the Carolina Bird Club—for placing a number of the photographs on the club's website for committee review and sending electronic submissions of Rare Bird Report forms to the committee chair.

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Fall 2007 Bird Count in South Carolina

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The Fall 2007 bird count took place from 15–22 September. Sixty people in 44 parties spread across the state logging 280.6 hours and covering 1161.5 miles. In all they tallied 17,578 individuals of 188 species in 10 counties. Drought conditions continued across the state from near normal conditions in the most southern portions to extreme conditions in the upstate. Temperatures ranged from 63°F lows to 85°F highs. Overall a pleasant day, but some participants reported rain and fog.

European Starlings took the honor of most individuals for a species, with most of the 1394 found in Greenville County. Parties found 32 species of wood warblers; the most common species were Pine Warbler (112), American Redstart (103), and Common Yellowthroat (95).

Species recorded in only one county include Mississippi Kite, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, Buff-bellied Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Great Black-backed Gull, Least Tern, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, Common Ground-Dove, Chuck-will's-widow, Rufous Hummingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Brewer's Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, and Purple Finch.

Species reported in every county include Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, and Northern Cardinal.

Counties reporting the most species were Georgetown (109/3969), Horry (96/1743), and Greenville (93/3120).

Thanks again to all who participated, and remember the Spring bird count is just around the corner.

County Summaries

Beaufort County: 66 species, 1470 individuals

Coordinator: Clem Dietze
277 Moss Creek Drive
Hilton Head, SC 29926

Participants: Clem Dietze, Mike McGinty, Karen McGinty, Doris Stoner

Beaufort County had the lone Cape May Warbler.

Cherokee County: 72 species, 1171 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29037

Participants: Carole Anderson, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Claude Cobb, Donnie Coody, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Maxi Nix, Mike Oliver, Tina Pearsall

Cherokee County had the only Chuck-will's-widows.

Georgetown County: 109 species, 3969 individuals

Coordinator: Jack Peachey
103 Walnut Circle
Conway, SC 29526

Participants: David Donmoyer, Dave Gustafson, Ritch Lilly, Margaret Pacileo, Jack Peachey, Martha Rosenquist, Alice Vivian

Georgetown County had exclusives with Merlin, Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Short-billed Dowitcher, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, Common Ground-Dove, and Savannah Sparrow.

Greenville County: 93 species, 3120 individuals

Coordinator: J.B. Hines
5258 Chesnee Highway
Chesnee, SC 29323

Participants: Jeff Catlin, Jody Distad, Elizabeth Galloway, Chip Gilbert, Sarah Gilbert, Jane Kramer, Gail Lowe, Evelyn Onofrio, Merikay Pirrone, Al Reese, Hilda Reese, Paul Serridge

Greenville County had exclusives with Peregrine Falcon, Blue-headed Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Hampton County: 56 species, 377 individuals

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
P.O. Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924

Participants: Kathleen O'Grady and Carroll Richard

Hampton County had high counts for Anhinga and tied with several counties for Loggerhead Shrike.

Horry County: 96 species, 1743 individuals

Coordinator: Reg Daves
2345 Steeplanding Road
Conway, SC 29526

Participants: Reg Daves, Chris Hill, Gail Kemm, Richard Moore, Barbara Thomas, Steve Thomas, Alice Vivian, Mark Wilson

Horry County had exclusives with Least Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole.

Lexington County: 84 species, 1060 individuals

Coordinator: Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail Road
Lexington, SC 29073

Participants: Margaret Bergin, Molly Bonnell, Andrea Ceselski, Barbara Darden, Irvin Pitts, Donna Slyce, Patricia Voelker

Lexington County had exclusives with Philadelphia Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Mourning Warbler.

Marlboro County: 77 species, 1046 individuals

Coordinator: Dennis Forsythe
171 Moultrie Street
Charleston, SC 29409

Participants: Dennis Forsythe

Marlboro County had exclusives with Bald Eagle, Swainson's Warbler, and Bobolink.

Orangeburg County: 45 species, 712 individuals

Coordinator: Jason Giovannone
2808 Dalewood Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170

Participants: Jason Giovannone, Michelle Giovannone

Orangeburg County had exclusives with Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope.

Spartanburg County: 91 species, 2910 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29037

Participants: Carole Anderson, Chris Anderson, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Linda Deahl, Charles Earl, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Alan Gray, Becky Gray, Nancy Gergen, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Herb Kay, Gail Medlin, Angela Miller, Moss Miller, Virl Momier, Nancy Owens, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Bob Scott, Mac Shealy, Kristen Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, Shelia Welch, Dan Wootten, Nancy Wootten

Spartanburg County had exclusives with Mississippi Kite, American Golden-Plover, Rufous Hummingbird, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Brewer's Blackbird, and Purple Finch.

Table 3. Fall 2007 bird counts in South Carolina

	BEAU	CHER	GEOR	GRVI	HAMP	HORR	LEXI	MARL	ORAN	SPAR	ALL
	15 Sep	22 Sep	16 Sep	15 Sep	22 Sep	16 Sep	15 Sep	15 Sep	15 Sep	15 Sep	
Canada Goose		164		162	4	39	131	35	12	294	841
Wood Duck	11	2	75	15	2	23		2		10	140
Mallard				17		15	15	3	8	85	143
Blue-winged Teal				6	4				5	18	33
Wild Turkey		2	6	1		6				10	25
Northern Bobwhite		8	2					2			12
Pied-billed Grebe	6		4		3				1	3	17
Brown Pelican	100		20								120
Double-crested Cormorant	21		1					1		6	29
Anhinga	3				4			3			10
Great Blue Heron	14	4	21	8	1	4	7	4	1	18	82
Great Egret	38	2	86	1	2	3	3	4	3	4	146
Snowy Egret	82		46			1	1				130
Little Blue Heron	30		14		1	1		2	2		50
Tricolored Heron	9		22								31
Cattle Egret	4		12			7		30	11		64
Green Heron	3		4	1		4	2			2	16
Black-crowned Night-Heron	9		17								26
White Ibis	358		59					1			418
Wood Stork	7		137								144
Black Vulture		10	13	10	3	12	31		3	4	86
Turkey Vulture		19	47	16	17	47	49	6	7	18	226
Osprey	6	1	21	4		6	3			3	44
Mississippi Kite										1	1
Bald Eagle								1			1
Northern Harrier	1	2								1	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	4	1	2	1	1		2	12
Cooper's Hawk		1	2	5	1	1	1			2	13
<i>Accipiter</i> species				2							2
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	3		7	2	3	7	5	3	9	40
Broad-winged Hawk				42		4	1			2	49
Red-tailed Hawk		3	1	5		2	5	4	1	12	33
<i>Buteo</i> species				4							4
American Kestrel		1	3	1	1	1	3	1		3	14
Merlin			1								1

	BEAU	CHER	GEOR	GRVI	HAMP	HORR	LEXI	MARL	ORAN	SPAR	ALL
Peregrine Falcon				1							1
Clapper Rail	3		15								18
Common Moorhen	18				4			1			23
American Coot					1	37					38
Black-bellied Plover			37								37
American Golden-Plover										1	1
Semipalmated Plover	2		183						1		186
Piping Plover			2								2
Killdeer		19	5	1	4	4	7	10	200	21	271
American Oystercatcher			36								36
Spotted Sandpiper		1			1					2	4
Greater Yellowlegs									2		2
Willet	6		36								42
Lesser Yellowlegs								1	8		9
Yellowlegs species			3								3
Marbled Godwit	2		2								4
Ruddy Turnstone			27								27
Sanderling			38								38
Semipalmated Sandpiper			14					31			45
Western Sandpiper	7		32								39
Least Sandpiper			1					10	150		161
Pectoral Sandpiper									100		100
Stilt Sandpiper									3		3
Buff-breasted Sandpiper									16		16
Short-billed Dowitcher			39								39
Wilson's Snipe									5	1	6
Wilson's Phalarope									1		1
Laughing Gull	333		236			12					581
Ring-billed Gull	36		43							1	80
Herring Gull			3			3					6
Great Black-backed Gull			1								1
Least Tern						2					2
Caspian Tern			25					1			26
Common Tern			2								2
Forster's Tern	11		70					1			82
Royal Tern			71								71

	BEAU	CHER	GEOR	GRVI	HAMP	HORR	LEXI	MARL	ORAN	SPAR	ALL
White-eyed Vireo	19	2	23	8	11	18	7	50	4	1	143
Yellow-throated Vireo						11				2	13
Blue-headed Vireo				4							4
Philadelphia Vireo							1				1
Red-eyed Vireo	4	2	20	10		16	21	50	7	3	133
Blue Jay	40	82	27	72	6	62		8	6	78	381
American Crow	29	67	87	76	9	44	21	1	12	120	466
Fish Crow	2		12		4	68	3	5			94
Crow species					12						12
Horned Lark		1							22		23
Tree Swallow		12	845			14					871
Northern Rough-winged Swallow							2		18		20
Barn Swallow			13			1	4		9		27
Carolina Chickadee	28	30	34	38	12	36	41	11	4	47	281
Tufted Titmouse	19	35	30	28	12	40	24	14		59	261
Red-breasted Nuthatch				3		1				6	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	5	15	23	6	5				10	66
Brown-headed Nuthatch	20	2	5	2	1	13	11		2	12	68
Carolina Wren	14	41	31	44	3	23	41	30	6	61	294
House Wren		1		1						3	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1			3				2	6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3			4	2	10	9	10	4	3	45
Eastern Bluebird	19	44	35	20	10	5	14	10		62	219
Veery	2		1			1		8			12
Swainson's Thrush				13			1				14
Wood Thrush		2	1	5		2		1			11
American Robin		41		26		273	4			117	461
Gray Catbird	2	3		6		7	2			13	33
Northern Mockingbird	6	39	70	9	17	46	34	22	6	68	317
Brown Thrasher	2	7	6	15		12	10	1		18	71
European Starling		91	32	1036		77	8		11	139	1394
Cedar Waxwing		10		14							24
Blue-winged Warbler			1	1			1				3
Tennessee Warbler				17			6				23

	BEAU	CHER	GEOR	GRVI	HAMP	HORR	LEXI	MARL	ORAN	SPAR	ALL
Orange-crowned Warbler						1					1
Nashville Warbler						1	3				4
Northern Parula	9		1	7	9	5	4	20			55
Yellow Warbler			9			1	2			1	13
Chestnut-sided Warbler				37						1	38
Magnolia Warbler				13		2	2	1			18
Cape May Warbler	1										1
Black-throated Blue Warbler		2	7	11		1				2	23
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1									4	5
Black-throated Green Warbler				5		2					7
Blackburnian Warbler				6							6
Yellow-throated Warbler	2	1	4	1	1	4	2	1			16
Pine Warbler	7	12	11	2	11	22	17	10		20	112
Prairie Warbler	1		4			1	3				9
Palm Warbler			48	21		1	5	6			81
Bay-breasted Warbler				1		1					2
Blackpoll Warbler										1	1
Black-and-white Warbler		1	7	15	1	5	3	5			37
American Redstart	3	5	10	23	10	24	20	3		5	103
Prothonotary Warbler						4					4
Worm-eating Warbler				1						2	3
Swainson's Warbler								1			1
Ovenbird				1			1				2
Northern Waterthrush			2	3			5	1			11
Louisiana Waterthrush							1				1
Kentucky Warbler				1							1
Mourning Warbler							1				1
Common Yellowthroat		5	68	5		13	4				95
Hooded Warbler		1		22			2	1			26

	BEAU	CHER	GEOR	GRVI	HAMP	HORR	LEXI	MARL	ORAN	SPAR	ALL
Yellow-breasted Chat										2	2
Summer Tanager	4	2	7	1	2	5	7	4		2	34
Scarlet Tanager		2		6			3	3			14
Eastern Towhee	5	14	23	16	2	4	9	10		10	93
Chipping Sparrow		6		4	2	10	3	2		17	44
Field Sparrow		10		6						2	18
Savannah Sparrow			1								1
Song Sparrow		1								2	3
White-throated Sparrow						6					6
Dark-eyed Junco				7							7
Northern Cardinal	34	32	45	75	12	66	106	15	17	128	530
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				6							6
Blue Grosbeak		1			4	8	22	4	7		46
Indigo Bunting			1	12		1	2	6		4	26
Painted Bunting	6		2		1		2				11
Bobolink								25			25
Red-winged Blackbird	1		212			28					241
Eastern Meadowlark		2						1		6	9
Brewer's Blackbird										25	25
Common Grackle		36	8	14		130	14	300		33	535
Boat-tailed Grackle	3		165								168
Brown-headed Cowbird		8		98		6	25	10		369	516
Orchard Oriole						1					1
Baltimore Oriole				2			3				5
Purple Finch										7	7
House Finch	4	15	7	13	6	34	14			50	143
American Goldfinch		10		53	1		15	1		43	123
House Sparrow		2	20	27	8	23	4			4	88
Total Species	66	72	109	93	56	96	84	77	45	91	188
Total Individuals	1470	1171	3969	3120	377	1743	1060	1046	712	2910	17578
Observers	N/A	8	7	12	2	8	7	2	1	12	59
Parties	N/A	3	7	9	1	7	4	1	1	11	44
Hours Foot	N/A	10	36.75	33.5	6.75	6	N/A	0	0.5	21.5	115
Hours Car	N/A	5	7.25	8.1	3.75	5	N/A	4	10	13	56.1
Hours Boat	N/A	0	0	0	0	3	N/A	0	0	3.5	6.5
Hours Bike	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	0

	BEAU	CHER	GEOR	GRVI	HAMP	HORR	LEXI	MARL	ORAN	SPAR	ALL
Miles Foot	N/A	9	21	19	3	35	N/A	0	1	16.5	104.5
Miles Car	N/A	109	149	233	83.5	10.5	N/A	38	170	197	990
Miles Boat	N/A	0	0	0	0	20	N/A	0	0	9	29
Miles Bike	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	0
Hours Feeder Watch	N/A	6	0	19.5	0	21	1	0	0	48.5	96
Feeder Watchers	N/A	2	0	3	0	N/A	1	0	0	23	29
Feeder Stations	N/A	2	0	0	0	N/A	3	0	0	16	21
Hours Owling	N/A	1	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	1.5	3	7
Miles Owling	N/A	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	10	38
Parties Owling	N/A	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	9
Observers Owling	N/A	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	12
Start Time	N/A	800	N/A	600	700	600	700	1100	530	600	
Finish Time	N/A	2200	N/A	2000	1730	2100	1600	1500	1730	2200	

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2007, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in *Carolinabirds*. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from *Carolinabirds*. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: The Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC had the largest number reported of this species with 22 there 15 Aug (Steve Calver).

SNOW GOOSE: Reports of Snow Geese the farthest away from their usual northeastern North Carolina range included singles in Henderson County, NC 16 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Deerlake, Transylvania

County, NC 22 Nov into Dec (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 17–30 Nov (Steve Calver). Other locally good finds involved one at Reedy Creek L., Umstead St. Pk., Wake County, NC 21 Nov (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) and one at Brick Landing Golf Course, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 22–26 Nov (Taylor Piephoff, John Ennis).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Ross's Goose reports included one at Santee, SC 1 Nov (Lloyd Moon), one at Deerlake, Transylvania County, NC 22 Nov into Dec (Tom Joyce, Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one at Brick Landing Golf Course, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 25–26 Nov (Taylor Piephoff, John Ennis), three at Camp Pinewood, Henderson County, NC 25 Nov (Forsythe, Selvey), and one in Greensboro, NC 27–28 Nov (Melissa Whitmire).



Ross's Goose, Greensboro, NC, 28 Nov 2007. Photo by Melissa Whitmire

BRANT: This species was found several times away from the usual Pamlico Sound wintering areas this fall. One was at the salt pond at C. Hatteras, NC 9–11 Nov (sev. obs.); eight were in flight over North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 11 Nov (Ricky Davis), and one was at Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, NC 30 Nov (John Fussell). The species is quite rare west of the C. Lookout area.

ACKLING GOOSE: This species was located only once this fall, with one being seen along the causeway at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 18 Nov (Bob Holmes et al.).

TUNDRA SWAN: Locally good sightings of this species involved two at Jordan L., NC 23 Nov (Ricky Davis) and six at Falls L., NC 24 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

EURASIAN WIGEON: There were at least three males of this species in the Bodie–Pea Is. area this fall, with one to two being seen both at North Pond and Bodie Lighthouse pond during the period (sev. obs.). The earliest was at North Pond 1 Oct (John & Paula Wright).

MOTTLED DUCK: North Carolina's second documented Mottled Duck was a male found at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach 10 and 17 Oct (Randy Climpson). This bird was then found to be paired up with a female Mottled in late Nov (Taylor Piephoff, Climpson, m. obs.). This pair remained in the area on into the winter season, prompting speculation about the continued presence of the species in that state.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Rare summering Ring-neckeds were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 2 Aug (Steve Calver) and at Jordan L., NC 19 and 25 Aug (Ricky Davis, David Howell; Bob Chase).

EIDER SP.: Rather early for the Carolinas were two female-plumaged eiders flying north (!) at Nags Head, NC 11 Nov (Haven Wiley).

SURF SCOTER: Always noteworthy inland, Surf Scoter sightings involved one on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 26 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and two on L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 3 Nov (Henry Link et al.).

BLACK SCOTER: One was also on L. Townsend, NC 3 Nov (Henry Link et al.), giving that location a two-scoter day.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Always a good find inland, one was at Jordan L., NC 23 Nov (Ricky Davis).

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one was found inland this fall, that being at Jordan L., NC 24 Nov (Gordon Brown).

COMMON LOON: Several early Commons were noted along the Outer Banks of North Carolina with singles at Nags Head 13 Aug (Nick Flanders) and at Pea Is. NWR 17 Aug (Catherine Bailey). The best inland count was the 40+ at L. Julian, NC 25 Oct (Vin Stanton).

EARED GREBE: This season's reports included one near Savannah NWR, SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias), three at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 21–30 Sep (Eric Dean, Ricky Davis), one at the C. Hatteras, NC salt pond 9–11 Nov (Eric Dean et al., Jeff Phippen et al.), four at Jordan L., NC 18 Nov (Gordon Brown), and a peak of nine at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 24 Nov (Steve Calver).

PTERODROMA PETRELS: Pelagic trips from Hatteras, NC this fall yielded a Herald Petrel 5 Aug, a Fea's Petrel 22 Sep, and the very rare Bermuda Petrel 22 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: Quite unexpected in fall, two to three Sooty Shearwaters were good finds off Hatteras, NC 11 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: The second White-faced Storm-Petrel of the year (first was in July) in North Carolina waters was found off Hatteras 25 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Only one was found this fall, that being off Hatteras, NC 1 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: North Carolina reports of this increasing species involved one at Pea Is., NWR 12–14 Oct (sev. obs.), 11 there by 18 Nov (Jeff Lewis), five at L. Mattamuskeet 24 Nov (Edith Tatum, Becky Yost), and 10 at a spoil island in the C. Fear River 15 Dec (Amy Williamson). South Carolina reports included 74 near Daufuskie Is. 26 Nov (Bob Burns, *fide* Nate Dias) and a peak count of 475 at the Savannah Spoil Site 17 Nov (Steve Calver).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: There were three frigatebirds seen in North Carolina this fall. An immature was noted on a piling in Currituck Sound across from Corolla 9 Aug (*fide* Jeff Lewis), an immature was photographed at Carolina Beach St. Pk. 21 Nov (Deb Beutler, James Holloway), and an adult male was observed at the west end of Long Beach 22 Nov (David Rebillard et al.). The latter two sightings provided very late reports for the Carolinas, as most are found during summer and early fall.

SNOWY EGRET: The farthest inland post-breeding dispersal Snowies were at L. James, Burke County, NC 9 Sep (Ricky Davis) and at Pilot Mt., NC 15 Sep (Phil Dickinson).

REDDISH EGRET: This fall's Reddish Egret sightings involved one at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias), a peak of three at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 8 Sep (Steve Calver), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 9 Sep (Steve Thomas), one at Mt. Pleasant, SC 22 Sep (Cathy Miller) and 21 Nov (*fide* Dias), and one near Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 23 Oct (Dave Lovett, Carol Jorgensen).



Reddish Egret, Mount Pleasant, SC, 22 Sept 2007. Photo by
Cathy Miller

WHITE IBIS: White Ibis numbers inland were relatively unimpressive this fall with 16 at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 17 Aug (Ricky Davis) being the best total reported for that state.

GLOSSY IBIS: Always good finds inland, Glossy Ibis were mentioned twice. Two were at upper Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen) and one was at Buckhorn Res., NC 26 Sep (Davis).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This species is found in the Carolinas every year now, and this fall's reports included four at Bear Is. WMA, SC 3 Aug (Nate Dias), two in the Capers Is.—Dewees Is., SC area in mid-Sep (*fide* Dias), and an impressive peak count of 46 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 2 Aug (Steve Calver). At least five remained in that area until the early winter (Calver).

WOOD STORK: This species seemed to wander somewhat more widely than usual this fall. Rare Piedmont sightings for South Carolina included two near Blair, Fairfield County 29 Aug (Robin Carter) and one along SC 34 just east of I-26 in Newberry County 23 Sep (Bob Wood). The farthest inland in North Carolina was the one in the Francisco community near the Dan River, Stokes County 13–14 Aug (Greg Collins, *fide* Phil Dickinson). Impressive was the count of 12 near the Goldsboro, NC WTP 5 Sep (*fide* Eric Dean); three were seen there the next day (Dean). Jordan L. hosted good numbers, with four there 14–16 Sep (Josh & Sterling Southern, sev. obs.), six there 21–23 Sep (Mike Johnson, sev. obs.), and two as late as 30 Sep (Steve Shultz). Three were observed over I-95 near Dunn, NC 13 Sep (David McLean). Buckhorn Res. in Wilson County also had some with two on 11 Aug and one on 6 Oct (Ricky Davis).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was late and locally unusual over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 Oct, as noted by Ron Selvey.

BALD EAGLE: This species continues to increase in the Carolinas, as evidenced by the count of 102 at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC area 17 Nov (Ricky Davis). This is easily a new record one-day total for the species in one area for North Carolina.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Golden Eagles were mentioned twice this fall, with one in the Turtle Is., Jasper County, SC area during the last week of Nov (Bob Burns, *fide* Nate Dias) and one at Stone Mt. St. Pk., NC 27 Oct (Phil Dickinson).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Interesting Peregrine Falcon reports included an immature at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Ricky Davis), an adult there 4 Oct (Davis), and a most impressive count of four at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Mike Johnson).

YELLOW RAIL: Most unusual was the sighting from a ship of a Yellow Rail about 175 miles east of Rodanthe, NC 7 Oct (Steve Shultz). Obviously out of its element, the bird was observed to pass by the ship several times!

BLACK RAIL: One at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 8 Sep (Melissa Aldrich et al., *fide* Nate Dias) was actually seen, a rare event in the Carolinas!

SORA: This species is known to migrate over the mountains but the count of 10+ at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 7 Oct (Simon Thompson) was rather impressive.

COMMON MOORHEN: Rare for the mountains was one on a pond near Hendersonville, NC 16 Nov on into the winter (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), providing only the second Henderson County record.



Common Moorhen, Hendersonville, NC, 16 Nov 2007. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

SANDHILL CRANE: Sandhill Crane reports involved an excellent total of 16 in a flock flying over I-40 near Wallace, NC 18 Nov (John Ennis) and one near North River near Beaufort, NC 24 Nov (Doug Wolfe, *vide* John Fussell).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The best counts of inland migrants involved 26 (all in alternate plumage) at Buckhorn Res., NC 17 Aug (Ricky Davis) and 15 at the New Hope flats of Jordan L., NC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz, Bob Rybczynski).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: There were many reports of this migrant shorebird this fall. The best counts were an impressive 30+ at the New Hope flats of Jordan L., NC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz, Bob Rybczynski) and eight at the American Turf farm, Creswell, NC 22 Sep (Jeff Lewis). The earliest was found at Bear Is. WMA, SC 3–6 Aug (Nate Dias, Roger Smith); while two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) were the farthest inland.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: The best count of inland migrants came from Jordan L., NC where 71 were noted 15 Sep (Will Cook et al.).

PIPING PLOVER: One at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Dave Lenat) provided a rare inland sighting for the species.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Good numbers of this species were noted in south-coastal South Carolina with 775 at the Savannah Spoil Site 15 Aug (Steve Calver) and 300+ at an impoundment near Savannah NWR 1 Sep (Nate Dias).



American Golden-Plovers, Creswell, NC, 22 Sept 2007.
Photo by Jeff Lewis.

AMERICAN AVOCET: Rare inland reports included one on a sandbar in Lookout Shoals L., Catawba/Iredell Counties, NC 14 Aug (Monroe Pannell, *fide* Dwayne Martin), one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 1 Sep (Steve Tracey), two at Jordan L., NC 30 Sep (Steve Shultz), and one to two there 15–18 Oct (Jacob Socolar, Bob Rybczynski). Locally noteworthy were five at Sullivan's Is., SC 22 Sep (Nona Valiunas) and 28 at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 12 Oct (Robin Carter et al.). The best counts once again came from south-coastal South Carolina with 600+ at an impoundment near Savannah NWR 1 Sep (Nate Dias) and 700 at the Savannah Spoil Site 27 Oct (Steve Calver).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: One at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 30 Nov (Dwayne Martin) was somewhat late for an inland location.

WILLET: Inland migrants (all presumed to be Westerns) included two at L. Norman, NC 23 Aug (Taylor Piephoff), two at Buckhorn Res., NC 29 Aug (Ricky Davis), one there 1–7 Sep and again 13 Sep (Davis), and one at Falls L., NC 10 Sep (Dan Kaplan).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The number of reports of this species was about average for the fall season. The best counts included seven at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 25 Aug (Lois Stacey et al.), six at the Beaufort, NC airport 25 Aug (Rich & Susan Boyd), six at a sod farm in Sumter County, SC 1 Sep (Robin Carter), and five at the Bucksport, SC sod farm 3–

10 Sep (Steve Thomas). The latest one reported was in the Mills River valley, Henderson County, NC 30 Sep (Marilyn Westphal).

WHIMBREL: A belated report was of one killed by a Peregrine Falcon, found at the base of Table Rock, Burke County, NC in May 2006 (Chris Kelly, *fide* Harry LeGrand, Jr.). This provided a very rare report for the mountains.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Hudsonian Godwits have been reported very infrequently the last several years. This fall's sightings involved three at Pea Is. NWR, NC 18 Aug (*fide* Jeff Lewis), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 31 Aug (Steve Calver), and three in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC on the rather late date of 11 Nov (Haven Wiley et al.).

MARbled GODWIT: One of the rarer shorebirds inland, this species was noted three times. Singles were at Falls L., NC 18 Aug (Steve Shultz, Ricky Davis, Erik Thomas) and 2–5 Sep (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Davis; Dave Lenat), and at Buckhorn Res., NC 17 Sep (Davis).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Inland turnstones were at Buckhorn Res., NC 29 Aug (Ricky Davis) and at Jordan L., NC 15 Sep (Davis) and 28 Oct (Steve Shultz).

RED KNOT: Red Knot is normally very rarely found inland in the Carolinas. Thus of note were three at L. Norman, NC 25 Aug (Jeff Lemons, *fide* Taylor Piephoff), two at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), and one was at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Davis).

SANDERLING: The best counts of this shorebird inland included 19 at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter) and 17 at Falls L., NC 5 Sep (Dave Lenat).

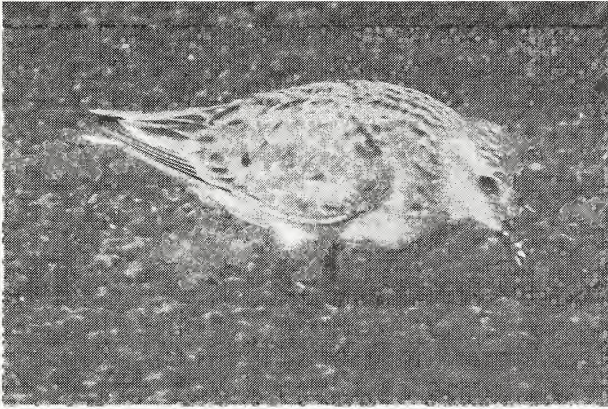
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Good counts of this sandpiper were had at several sites including 150+ at Falls L., NC 16 Aug (Dave Lenat) and 135 at Jordan L., NC 15 Sep (Will Cook et al.). Elsewhere 11 at a pond near the Congaree R., Richland County, SC 5 Aug (Jason Giovannone) were locally good finds.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Two were locally unusual at a pond near the Congaree R., Richland County, SC 5 Aug, as noted by Jason Giovannone. Impressive totals for this species included 32 at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter) and 54 there 15 Sep (Will Cook et al.).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: The number of White-rumped reports was down this fall. Five were at Jordan L., NC 3 and 15 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), four were at Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Davis, Carter, Jeff Pippen), three were there 7 Oct (Davis), another was there 18 Nov (Davis), and one was at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 18 Nov (Bob Holmes et al.).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species had one of its best fall migrations in many years this season. The first was found on Kiawah Is., SC 4 Aug (Nate Dias), and the next was found at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 18–20 Aug (John Haire, Royce Hough). Falls L., NC produced multiple sightings with one 18 Aug (Ricky Davis, Erik Thomas), two on 30 Aug (Dave Lenat), one 2 Sep (Davis, Jeff Pippen, Derb Carter), and one 10 Sep (Dan Kaplan). Jordan L., NC also hosted one 3 Sep (Davis, Carter). Buckhorn Res., NC

hosted a handful with one there 1 Sep (Davis, Harry Sell, Bruce Smithson), another there 7 Sep (Davis), and a group of three there 13 Sep (Davis) with one still present as late as 22 Sep (Davis, Josh Southern). The Nimmer Turf farm at Ridgeland, Jasper County, SC had one on 15–17 Sep (John Green, *fide* Robin Carter; Mary McDavit). More coastal reports included another at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Sep (Dias) and two at Pea Is. NWR, NC 16 Sep (Doug Pratt et al.).



Baird's Sandpiper, Winston-Salem, NC, 20 Aug 2007. Photo by Ferenc Domoki.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One in mostly alternate plumage was present at the pond at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal 12–15 Aug (John Fussell, sev. obs.), providing one of the few sightings for this species in the Carolinas over the last several years.



Curlew Sandpiper, Cedar Island ferry, 12 Aug 2007. Photo by Steve Shultz.

STILT SANDPIPER: The best inland counts of this species included 10+ at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Dave Lenat), 15 at Jordan L., NC on 16 Sep (Jeff

Pippen et al.), and 40 there 23 Sep (Ricky Davis et al.). Other sightings involved two at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Sep (Jason Giovannone), five at Jordan L., NC 18 Oct (Bob Rybczynski) and two being somewhat late at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 9–11 Nov (Davis, sev. obs.).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: This species once again was found throughout both Carolinas. The best reported counts included 42 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 8 Sep (Steve Calver), 36 at the American Turf farm, Creswell, NC 18 Sep (John Register), 32 still there on 22 Sep (Jeff Lewis), 32 at Falls L., NC 6 Sep (Doug Shadwick), and 16 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Sep (Jason Giovannone). The earliest was south of Vandemere, Pamlico County, NC 14 Aug (John Haire), while the latest were the five at Kiawah Is., SC 30 Sep (Nate Dias et al.). The farthest inland included one at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 19–22 Sep (Haire) and eight at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 15 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Keith Camburn).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Greensboro, NC, 21 Sept 2007. Photo by John Haire.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: The best inland counts reported involved 23 at Falls L., NC 18 Aug (Steve Shultz), 65 at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Dave Lenat), and 30 there on 2 Sep (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Derb Carter). Elsewhere one at Hooper Lane, NC 14 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for that mountain locality.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Always noteworthy inland, single Long-billeds were at Jordan L., NC 18 Oct (Bob Rybczynski) and 28 Oct (Steve Shultz). Along the coast one at Breach Inlet, SC 6 Aug (David Abbott) was locally unusual and early.

WILSON'S SNIPE: One was somewhat early at Buckhorn Res., NC 11 Aug, as noted by Ricky Davis.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Once again the Savannah Spoil Site, SC hosted good numbers of this species, and the peak count was 14 on 15 Aug (Steve Calver). Elsewhere one was at Falls L., NC 25 Aug (Johnny Wilson, *fide* Jeff Pippen), two were at an impoundment near Savannah NWR, SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias), one was at Jordan L, NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), another was there 14–16 Sep (Josh & Sterling Southern, Doug Shadwick et al., Jeff Pippen et al.) and 23 Sep (Davis, Shelley Theye), one was at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Davis), and one was at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Sep (Jason Giovannone).

RED PHALAROPE: One was very rare inland at Jordan L, NC 14–18 Sep (Josh & Sterling Southern, Will Cook et al., Jeff Pippen et al.), providing about the second sighting for that area.

LAUGHING GULL: Three Laughing Gulls (two adults, one immature) were good finds at the New Hope flats of Jordan L., NC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz).

LITTLE GULL: Most unusual was the first-winter Little Gull found on the beach at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 13 Oct (Dave Russell, *fide* Chris Hill), providing an unprecedented early sighting for this species.

CALIFORNIA GULL: Also most unexpected was the adult California Gull seen at Pea Is. NWR, NC 3 Aug (Don Rote). The bird, obviously a non-breeding wanderer, was in adult plumage and was seen well with direct comparison with nearby Herring Gulls.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: This species continues to be found in the Carolinas in ever-increasing numbers. The best counts this fall included 38 at C. Hatteras, NC 19 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd), 53 in one mile of beach at Southern Shores, NC 21 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), and 75 at C. Hatteras 27 Oct (John and Paula Wright).

SABINE'S GULL: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, one was a good find off of Hatteras, NC 15 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY TERN: The peak count offshore this fall was the 73 off Hatteras, NC 1 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland counts received included 17 at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis), nine at L. Norman, NC 8 Sep (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps), and 21 at Falls L., NC 15 Sep (Davis).

BLACK TERN: The migration of this species this fall seemed to be better than average. The best inland counts were 33 at L. Norman, NC 24 Aug (Taylor Piephoff), 30 near Parksville, McCormick County, SC 1 Sep (Jason Giovannone), and 15 at L. Norman 8 Sep (David Wright et al.).

COMMON TERN: The most interesting inland report involved an impressive count of 40 on L. Norman, NC 8 Sep (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps). This species is a regular visitor to inland bodies of water, but usually in much smaller numbers.

FORSTER'S TERN: The peak inland counts included 15 at L. Norman, NC 8 Sep (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps), six at Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis) and 15 Sep (Davis), and five at Jordan L., NC 15 Sep (Davis).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Good early fall sightings of this species included singles off Hatteras, NC 15 and 22 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Also one was seen from shore at Pea Is. NWR, NC 7 Nov (Ricky Davis).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always noteworthy, single Long-tailed Jaegers were noted off Hatteras, NC 3 and 15 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Somewhat late were single Yellow-billeds at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC (John Fussell et al.) and Pea Is. NWR., NC (Brian Bockhahn, Ricky Davis), both on 8 November.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Reports were about average this fall, with one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 15 and 21 Sep (Anne and Blayne Olsen, John Lindfors et al.), two in Fairfield County, SC 22 Sep (Donna Slyce et al.), one at Winston-Salem, NC 23 Sep (Ferenc Domoki), and one at Pettigrew St. Pk., NC 1 Oct (Peggy Eubank).

SHORT-EARED OWL: One was a good find in southeastern Calhoun County, SC 19 Nov, as noted by Robin Carter.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: The biggest groupings of migrant nighthawks included 264 at Thunder Hill overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Blowing Rock, NC 8 Sep (Ricky Davis) and “hundreds” in one area near St. Matthews, SC 13 Sep (*vide* Nate Dias).

CHUCK-WILL’S-WIDOW: One seen perched at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 19 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Ron Selvey) provided a late and locally rare sighting for that mountain locality.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Only two were mentioned this fall: at Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Greenville County, SC 3 Sep (Steve Compton, Richard Hayes) and in the Mills River area of Henderson County, NC 21 Sep (Marilyn Westphal).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: The number of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports was about average for the fall season. North Carolina sightings included one to two at Jackson Park, Hendersonville 2–24 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al., John Lindfors et al.), one at Charlotte 8 Sep (John Buckman), one at Carolina Beach St. Pk. 17 Sep (Greg Massey, John Ennis), one at Leland, Brunswick County 17 Sep (Massey), and one at Orton Plantation, Brunswick County 21 Sep (Massey). In South Carolina one was at Legare Farms, Johns Is. 15 Sep (Nate Dias et al.) and one was in N. Augusta 23 Sep (Lois Stacey).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Two *Empidonax* flycatchers identified to this species included singles along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Grandfather Mt., NC 8 Sep (Ricky Davis) and at Santee NWR, SC 28 Sep (Robin Carter et al.).

ALDER/WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Individuals of the “Traill’s” complex were reported at Patriot’s Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Aug (Nate Dias), at Congaree Bluffs, Calhoun County, SC 11–14 Oct (Robin Carter), and at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC on the very late date of 18 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: There were three Least Flycatchers reported this fall, with singles at Duke Gardens, Durham, NC 16 Sep (Harry LeGrand,

Jr.), at Saluda Shoals, Columbia, SC 19 Sep (Robin Carter), and at Pea Is. NWR, NC 24 Sep (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

EASTERN PHOEBE: One at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 12 Aug (Sean Williams, John Fussell et al.) was interesting, as this species is not known to nest that close to the coast, and was rather early for a fall migrant.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: This species has become almost annual in North Carolina the last several years. This fall one was briefly present in a yard in Leland, Brunswick County, NC 13 Nov (John Ennis).



Ash-throated Flycatcher, Leland, NC, 13 Nov 2007. Photo by John Ennis.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: One was seen well and closely studied at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 11 Nov (Lee Yoder et al.) to rule out the more likely Ash-throated.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: This fall's Western Kingbird reports involved singles at Alligator R. NWR, NC 5 Nov (*fide* Pat Moore) and on Roanoke Is., NC 29 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

GRAY KINGBIRD: One at the north end of Pea Is., NC 21 Oct (Derb Carter) provided a rare fall occurrence for that species.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The pair in Southern Pines, NC nested again this year and three young were successfully fledged. These birds were noted in the area until at least 14 Sep (*fide* Susan Campbell). Elsewhere single Scissor-taileds were noted at Charleston, SC 2 Aug (Dennis Forsythe et al.), at the north end of Folly Beach, SC 23 Aug (Will Whitsett, *fide* Nate Dias), and southeast of Monroe, Union County, NC 19 Sep (*fide* Anne Olsen).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: One at Saluda Shoals, Columbia, SC 19 Sep (Robin Carter) was locally unusual and provided a potential first report for the park.

BELL'S VIREO: One at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 4–5 Nov (John Fussell et al.) was the second documented for that state. Of interest was that the bird was first noted by its singing—unusual for a fall migrant!

WARBLING VIREO: This species is rarely noted in fall, thus of note was one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 23 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: This species was reported somewhat less often than usual this fall. Jackson Park, NC hosted from one to three during the month of Sep (m. obs.) while two was a good count for Roanoke Is., NC 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis). Quite late was one at the Bethabara Greenway, Winston-Salem, NC 25 Oct, as noted by Phil Dickinson.

FISH CROW: Two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 6 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Keith Camburn) continued the species' presence in that western locality.

COMMON RAVEN: More central North Carolina sightings of this species involved singles near Chapel Hill 5 Aug (*fide* Ginger Travis) and at Occoneechee Mt. near Hillsborough 3 Nov (Mike Turner).

HORNED LARK: Locally unusual were two at Alligator R. NWR, NC 20 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd) and one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 21–30 Nov (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.).



Horned Lark, Pea Is. NWR, 21 Nov 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BANK SWALLOW: Very late were two Bank Swallows at Sullivan's Is., SC 20 Nov (Willy Hutcheson, *fide* Nate Dias).

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows once again infiltrated the Carolinas this fall. The best counts came from the Tidewater Research Station near Roper, Washington County, NC with 20+ there 7 Nov (Harry LeGrand, Jr., John Finnegan) and 85 being counted 17 Nov (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere three were south of South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 8 Nov (Davis), three were

at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 8 Nov (John Fussell et al.), one was C. Hatteras, NC 9–10 Nov (Brian Patteson et al., sev. obs.), two were in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 18 Nov (Haven Wiley et al.), and three were at Sullivan's Is., SC 20 Nov (Willy Hutcheson, *fide* Nate Dias).

BARN SWALLOW: Late Barn Swallows included one at Sullivan's Is., SC 20 Nov (Willy Hutcheson, *fide* Nate Dias) and three at Sunset Beach, NC 24 Nov (Ricky Davis).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Red-breasted Nuthatches staged one of their best fall flights in several years. The earliest ones were at Bodie Is., NC in mid-Aug (*fide* Jeff Lewis), in Mecklenburg County, NC 28 Aug (Kevin Metcalf), and at Cedar Grove, Orange County, NC 30 Aug (Dave Snyder). By the end of September, they had spread to most regions of the Carolinas.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, Corolla, NC, 3 Nov 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BROWN CREEPER: One at Huntingtowne Greenway, Charlotte, NC 11 Sep (*fide* Dave Lovett) was somewhat early.

SEDGE WREN: Good mountain area sightings included one in the Mills River Valley, Henderson County, NC 23 Sep (Marilyn Westphal) and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 7 Oct (Jon Smith).

MARSH WREN: Locally noteworthy inland reports involved two at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Ricky Davis) and two at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 7 Oct, as noted by Simon Thompson.

VEERY: An excellent count for a coastal area was the 14 Veeries seen at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC 16 Sep (Paul Sykes).

THRUSHES: Eighteen Gray-cheekeds, 268 Swainson's, and 48 Wood Thrushes were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC during the fall (Rick Knight), providing record 10-year totals for that locality. Also a Wood Thrush coming to a bird bath in Hendersonville, NC 13 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) provided a very late report for that species.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: One was extraordinarily late at N. Folly Beach, SC 3 Nov (Chris Snook). The bird was banded and photographed, providing documentation of such a late date for this species.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Locally rare, and a good find at any season along the coast, was the male Golden-winged at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: This hybrid was mentioned once, that being at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 24 Sep (Wayne Forsythe).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Somewhat early were single Tennessees at Valle Crucis, NC 15 Aug (Robin Diaz) and at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 18 Aug (Rick Knight).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This season's reports away from the mountains included singles at Patriot's Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC 3 Sep (Dennis Forsythe), at Winston-Salem, NC 5 Sep (Phil Dickinson), at Manteo, NC 13 Sep (Jeff Lewis), at New Bern, NC 25 and 29 Sep (Al Gamache), at Kiawah Is., SC 30 Sep (Nate Dias), and in Orange County, NC 25 Oct (Ginger Travis).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: This species is less common as a fall migrant along the immediate coast. Thus of note were single Chestnut-sideds at James Is., SC 28 Aug (Dennis Forsythe), at Emerald Isle, NC 1 Sep (John Voight, Sally Carter, *fide* John Fussell), and at Charleston, SC 16 Sep (Nate Dias).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 18 Aug (Rick Knight) was rather early. Most fall migrants start coming through the Carolinas in mid-September.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Somewhat late were single Black-throated Blues at Conway, SC 8 Nov (Gary Phillips) and on Roanoke Is., NC 16 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Two were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC on the early date of 22 Aug (Rick Knight). These birds could have been local summering birds, as the species has been found nearby the last several summers. The western "Audubon's" form, rarely found in the Carolinas, was a good find at Alligator R. NWR, NC 9 Nov (John Ennis).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was somewhat late at Roanoke Is., NC 9 Nov (Jeff Lewis et al.). This species is a regular late fall migrant with a few being found up until the first week of November most years.

CERULEAN WARBLER: Three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 31 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, John Lindfors) provided a good count for that species.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: There were a couple of late reports of Swainson's Warbler this fall. Two in Camden, SC 4 Sep and one at Manchester St. Forest, Sumter County, SC 14 Sep (Robin Carter) were rather

late, but one at Chapel Hill, NC 8 Oct (Judy Murray) was extremely late! There are only a couple of previous Oct reports from the Carolinas.

OVENBIRD: One at Marshall, Madison County, NC 9–11 Nov (Kevin Caldwell) was quite late, especially for a mountain locality.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: A good count of 15+ was had at Patriot's Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Aug (Nate Dias). Late were one on Roanoke Is., NC 21 Nov (Jeff Lewis) and two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 30 Nov (Steve Calver). The latter two, however, were at a location where wintering has occurred.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: One was banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 24 Aug (Rick Knight), providing a locally unusual sighting for that high-elevation site.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Only one Connecticut was reported this fall, that being at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 Oct (Ron Selvey). This species has definitely decreased as a fall migrant in the Carolinas over the last several years.

MOURNING WARBLER: North Carolina reports of this rare migrant included one at Black Mountain 2 Sep (Stu Gibeau), one in Granville County 5 Sep (Deck Stapleton), one at the Winston-Salem WTP 9 Sep (John Haire), and one along the Muddy Creek Greenway, Winston-Salem 15 Sep (Ferenc Domoki). In South Carolina one was at Sea Pines, Hilton Head Is. 12 Sep (Jeff Mollenhauer) and one was along Old State Rd., Lexington County 12 Sep (Jason Giovannone).

HOODED WARBLER: One was rather late at Evergreen Nature Preserve, Charlotte, NC 4 Nov, as noted by Larry and Louise Barden.

SUMMER TANAGER: Three at Jackson Park, NC 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) provided an excellent count for the mountains. Also one banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 7 Sep (Rick Knight) was very unusual at that high elevation.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: The best counts of this rare but regular fall migrant included three at Patriot's Point, SC 21 Sep (Nate Dias et al.) and up to two at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC from 14 Oct until the end of Nov (John Fussell et al.).

VESPER SPARROW: Eleven at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 30 Nov (Steve Calver) provided an excellent count for the species in the Carolinas.

LARK SPARROW: Always noteworthy in our area, this fall's Lark Sparrows were found at Santee NWR, SC 1 Sep (Steve Tracey), near Jackson, SC 15 Sep (Lois Stacey, Ruth Mead), in the Bodie Is., NC Lighthouse area 16 Sep (Doug Pratt et al.), at Ft. Fisher, NC 17 Sep (John Ennis), at Patriot's Point, SC 21 Sep (Bill Dobbins; Nate Dias et al.), and at the north end of Folly Beach, SC 21 Sep (Chris Snook).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Locally good finds were one to two at the New Hope flats, Jordan L., NC 15 Oct (Jacob Socolar) and one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 10 Nov (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen et al.).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: One found at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 17 Nov (Steve Calver) was the only one mentioned this fall.

SEASIDE SPARROW: One was repeatedly seen well at close range in the grassy flats of upper Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Derb Carter, Jeff Phippen, Ricky Davis). This was the first inland sighting of a live bird in the Carolinas, as two previous inland reports involved dead birds found at the base of a TV Tower in Bladen County, NC.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This fall's Lincoln's Sparrow sightings involved singles at Jackson Park, NC 6 Oct (Jon Smith) and 19 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Sam Knob, Haywood County, NC 9 Oct (Marilyn Westphal), at Alligator R. NWR, NC 12 Oct (Ricky Davis), at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 Oct (Steve Calver), and at Asheville, NC 21 Oct (Gail Lankford).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: One was somewhat early at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 16 Sep (John Fussell et al.). Interestingly, the bird was showing some juvenal-plumage streaking which is not normally seen on fall migrants in the Carolinas.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One was a good find at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 3 Nov (Henry Link et al.) and provided a first record for that county. Elsewhere singles were found at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 10–11 Nov (Eric Dean et al., sev. obs.) and at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 17 Nov (Ricky Davis).

SNOW BUNTING: Snow Buntings were reported twice this fall, with one at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 9–10 Nov (Eric Dean et al., sev. obs.) and two to three at Pea Is. NWR, NC 11 Nov (Lee Yoder et al.).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: An immature male was quite late at a feeder in Morehead City, NC 24 Nov (*vide* John Fussell).

INDIGO BUNTING: One was somewhat late at Alligator R. NWR, NC 10 Nov, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

DICKCISSEL: The number of Dickcissel reports was down somewhat this fall. Reports received involved two at Pon Pon Plantation, Colleton County, SC 10 Aug (Nate Dias), one at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County, NC 12 Aug (Ricky Davis, David Howell, Eric Dean, Gene Howe), one at Manteo, NC 18 Aug (Jeff Lewis), and up to eight from the summer at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 19 Aug (John Fussell et al.). The latter site also produced migrant Dickcissels, with two on 21 Oct and one on 4 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: One at Round Bald near Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 17 Nov (Rick Knight) was considered locally unusual at that high elevation.

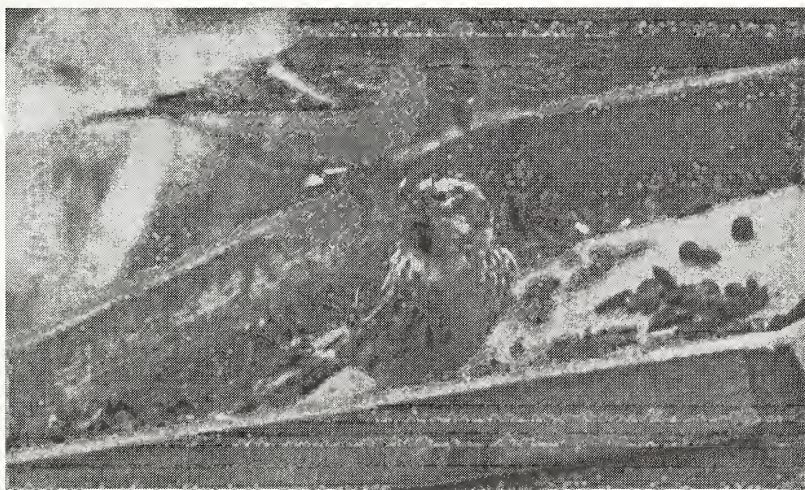
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Only one was mentioned this fall, that being a female at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 14 Sep (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The mountains had the only Brewer's Blackbirds this fall, with a female at Hooper Lane, NC 17–25 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and two at Marshall, Madison County, NC 20 Nov (Kevin Caldwell).

PURPLE FINCH: This species staged one of its better flights in the last several years this fall. The earliest ones were at Beaufort, NC 29 Sep (Rich & Susan Boyd), at Boone, NC 3–4 Oct (Walt Conway), at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC 19 Oct (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin), and at Manteo, NC 21 Oct (Jeff Lewis). It remains to be seen if this good influx during the fall will mean more this winter.

RED CROSSBILL: The best counts this season included 24 in the Mt. Mitchell, NC area 25 Aug (Marilyn Westphal), 15 at Mt. Mitchell, NC 9 Sep (Ricky Davis), and seven at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 19 Aug (Rick Knight). Elsewhere two were near Grandfather Mt., NC 8 Sep (Davis) and one was at a feeder in Greenville, SC 24 Aug (Jane Kramer, Jeff Catlin).

COMMON REDPOLL: Common Redpoll is rarely found in the Carolinas, thus three reports this fall were most unexpected. One was at C. Hatteras, NC 4 Nov (Jerry Talkington), one was at a feeder in Bear Creek, Chatham County, NC 18 Nov (Parker Backstrom), and one was at a feeder at Nags Head, NC 26 Nov (Skip Morgan). Apparently this is going to be a good winter for southward movement by this species.



Common Redpoll, Chatham Co., NC, 18 Nov 2007. Photo by Parker Backstrom.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Evening Grosbeaks also caused some excitement this fall with several sightings. At Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC six were noted 29 Oct and that number had built up to about 40 by 1 Nov (Dwayne Martin). Three were seen flying through Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 18 Nov (Rick Knight), and a "small flock" was noted at Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, NC 21 Nov (Susan Campbell, Michael McCloy). It has been many years since numbers like this have been found in the Carolinas.

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1958

In "Backyard Birding", Mrs. Pinckney King described her experiences with feeding wintering Baltimore Orioles in Hartsville, SC. They first appeared in January 1953 and had returned each year, five winters in all and numbering from six to 14.

B. R. Chamberlain reported on the 1957 Christmas Bird Count in the Carolinas. A total of 206 observers in 88 parties counted 183 species and 303,600 birds. The most unexpected find was six American Tree Sparrows on the Chapel Hill count, which also reported 800 Brewer's Blackbirds. The Eastover SC count reported two Bewick's Wrens. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park count reported eight Snow Buntings, the first record for the park. A Western Grebe was observed on the Wilmington NC count, as was a Common Ground-Dove.

The CBC midwinter field trip took place at Mattamuskeet NWR 17-19 January. The 84 birders attending observed 102 species. Great Black-backed Gull and Northern Gannet were considered to be the most notable species.

The General Field Notes editors considered that the winter, as of mid-January, promised to be an outstanding one for southward penetration of northern species. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were already present in "unusual quantity and distribution". Evening Grosbeaks had been reported as far south as Aiken and McClellanville SC.

B. R. Chamberlain reported discovery of a breeding colony of Barn Swallows in Stanly County, which he described as the first known nesting site in the Carolinas outside of Alleghany and Watauga Counties in NC or along the coast.

Paul Sykes reported three Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Pea Island NWR on 2 Sept 1957, apparently the fifth record for the state.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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CBC members receive *The Chat*, a quarterly journal devoted to bird study and conservation, and the *CBC Newsletter*, which carries information about meetings, field trips, and club projects. Items for publication should be sent to the appropriate Editor. Send requests for back numbers of either publication to the Headquarters Secretary.

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General Field Notes Editors
North Carolina
South Carolina
Briefs for the Files
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General Field Notes

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General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in *The Chat*.

First Record of Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*) for North Carolina

Derb S. Carter, Jr.¹ and Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.²

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On 28 December 2003, Josh Rose and party located and identified to genus an *Empidonax* flycatcher on the Jordan Lake, NC, Christmas Bird Count. The flycatcher was observed in the morning in and around the margins of a cow pasture along Hanks Chapel Road in Chatham County.

At 07:45 on the morning of 30 December, Carter relocated the flycatcher in the same pasture and identified it as a Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*). He observed the flycatcher periodically until about 09:00 as it foraged in the pasture. Many birders saw the flycatcher on following days, and it was last reported on 22 January 2004 (Davis 2004). Photographs were secured by Will Cook and Jeff Pippen and placed on their personal websites for public viewing and for permanent documentation at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

The overall impression of the bird was a grayish flycatcher, pale below with the eye-ring and wing-bars characteristic of an *Empidonax*. The upperparts were gray, tinged on the back with olive green. The head was rounded, with only a very slight peak at the rear of the crown, and was gray with a tinge of olive green on the nape. The dark eye was encircled by a fairly uniform thin white eye-ring. The underparts were whitish, with grayish sides and a slight yellowish wash on the center of the lower breast and belly. The wings were dark gray with two buffy wing-bars, buffy edges to the tertials, and short primary projections. The tail was fairly long, dark gray, and notched, with distinct and uniform thin white outer edges. The bill was fairly long and narrow as viewed from the front, with a dark upper mandible. The lower mandible was pinkish orange at the base, with a dark tip.



Figure 1. Gray Flycatcher, Chatham County, NC, 31 Dec 2003. Photo by Will Cook.



Figure 2. Gray Flycatcher, Chatham County, NC, 19 Jan 2004. Photo by Will Cook.

The flycatcher foraged by moving through a weedy cow pasture, perching on weed stalks and saplings and making frequent sallies, mostly to the ground. When perched, it continuously lowered its tail from a stationary position and raised it back in a deliberate, not jerky or twitching, manner. It flitted its wings occasionally immediately upon alighting on a perch, but generally the wings were motionless when it was perched. On 1 January 2004, LeGrand observed the flycatcher and heard it give a soft “whit” call note.

While non-breeding, non-singing *Empidonax* flycatchers are notoriously difficult to identify, the combination of field marks and behaviors of the Chatham County bird support its identification as a Gray Flycatcher. This species is described as the “longest” *Empidonax* species in the United States (Sibley 2000), with a longer bill and tail than other species and, as the name implies, an overall grayish appearance, all consistent with the bird observed. Gray Flycatchers have an olive greenish tinge to the otherwise gray upperparts in basic plumage (National Geographic Society 1999). First-year birds have buffy wing-bars and tertial edges. The lack of darker green or brown tones above or extensive yellowish below, and the presence of a uniform thin eye-ring, tend to eliminate Pacific-slope (*E. difficilis*), Cordilleran (*E. occidentalis*), Acadian (*E. virescens*), Willow (*E. traillii*), Alder (*E. alnorum*), and Yellow-bellied (*E. flaviventris*) flycatchers. Other *Empidonax* species that may appear more grayish above and pale below include Least (*E. minimus*), Hammond’s (*E. hammondi*), and Dusky (*E. oberholseri*) flycatchers. In contrast with Gray Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher is the smallest North American *Empidonax*, with a short bill, short tail, and bold eye-ring. Hammond’s Flycatcher has a “tiny” mostly dark bill, short tail, long primary projection, and gray head contrasting with a “rather dark

olive breast and back" (Sibley 2000). Dusky Flycatcher appears closest in overall plumage and shape to Gray Flycatcher but has a short, mostly dark bill, and gray head contrasting with underparts and upperparts as in Hammond's.

Several references (Kaufman 2000, Sibley 2000, National Geographic Society 1999) state that the downward "tail wagging" of Gray Flycatcher is "distinctive" or "unique" for this *Empidonax*. While other *Empidonax* may jerk or flick their tails in an upward motion, often accompanied by wing flitting, only Gray Flycatcher has a gentle, downward tail wag, much in the manner of an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). The downward tail wagging was very apparent in the Chatham County bird and was captured on video.

This constitutes the first record of Gray Flycatcher for North Carolina and one of the few eastern United States/Canada records of this *Empidonax* that breeds primarily in the Great Basin in the western United States and winters primarily in Mexico (Howell and Webb 1995). Coincidentally, a Gray Flycatcher was also seen in Ontario from December 2003 into January 2004, for the third record for that province (Currie 2004). The North Carolina Bird Records Committee accepted a written description of this Chatham County bird provided by Carter and also accepted photos taken by Will Cook (LeGrand et al. 2005). As a result of acceptance of both written and photographic material, the species was placed directly onto the Official List.

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Roof-nesting by Common Terns and Black Skimmers in North Carolina

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During the 2005 breeding season, Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) and Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*) were discovered nesting on a gravel-covered roof in Morehead City (Carteret County), North Carolina. Common Terns and Black Skimmers have been known to use gravel roofs in other parts of their range (Fisk 1978; Gore 1987; MacFarlane 1977), but to the best of my knowledge, this is the first record of roof-nesting by these species in North Carolina. Other species of beach-nesting birds such as Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum*) and American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) have previously been documented nesting on gravel roofs in North Carolina (Cooper 1994; Doyle 1998; J. Fussell pers. comm.), and roughly 30% of North Carolina's breeding Least Terns utilize gravel roofs (NCWRC 2004).

On 29 April 2005, while boating near Beaufort Inlet, I observed a flock of skimmers on top of a warehouse roof at the Morehead City Port Authority. The warehouse borders Bogue Sound and Morehead City Channel (34° 42' 57.5", 76° 41' 45.7"). I visited the roof on 20 May 2005 and confirmed nesting by both Common Terns and Black Skimmers. Birds were in the early stages of nesting and were incubating and laying eggs. During the brief visit, I counted five Black Skimmer nests and four Common Tern nests. Several more scrapes were present and I counted 34 adult skimmers and 12 adult Common Terns at the site. A pair of American Oystercatchers was also observed nesting on the roof of an adjacent warehouse. The roofs of the warehouses were flat and covered with light-colored pea gravel. There was no wall around the edge of the roof so any chicks that might have hatched were at risk of falling off. Eight buildings at the facility had flat, gravel roofs, but only one was being used for nesting by skimmers and terns. I was unable to revisit the site during the breeding season, and therefore it is unknown if any of the nesting attempts were successful.

Along the Atlantic Coast, Common Terns and Black Skimmers typically nest on open and sparsely vegetated sandy barrier island beaches. They will also nest on natural and man-made estuarine islands. Both are considered species of high conservation concern in the *North American Waterbird Conservation Plan* (Kushlan et al. 2002), and both are state listed in North Carolina as species of special concern (LeGrand et al. 2006). Movement to gravel roofs is likely an adaptation to increasing habitat loss, human disturbance, and predation on barrier island beaches. Studies have shown that birds nesting on gravel roofs are only moderately successful or have low reproductive success (Gore and Kinnison 1991; Gore 1987; Fisk 1978).

While some threats such as predation and disturbance may be reduced, other threats exist, including extreme heat, flooding, and egg breakage.

There is concern that a shift to gravel roofs will not offset losses at traditional nesting sites. Furthermore, there has been a tendency in recent years to replace high maintenance gravel roofs with other types of roofs such as plastic (DeVries 2004; Gore and Kinnison 1991). With continuing loss of beach nesting habitat, the use of gravel roofs by beach nesting birds will likely increase in North Carolina. Gravel roofs offer alternative nesting sites and efforts to increase productivity at these sites are worthwhile. However, given the potential threats to roof nesters and the potential loss of gravel roofs in the future, it is important to focus on protecting remaining natural nesting sites.

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Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) at Murrells Inlet: Third Documented Record for South Carolina

Gary R. Graves

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On 31 December 2007, I observed a Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) at the Murrells Inlet jetties (33° 31.422' N, 79° 01.682' W), accessible from Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, South Carolina. The unwary guillemot swam along both sides of the west jetty (13:50–14:20 hr), usually within 5–10 m of the boulders, affording excellent views through binoculars (Zeiss, 10 × 40). I took a few photographs with a Canon Powershot A570 camera (7.1 megapixels) that showed the diagnostic plumage characters, but I was unable to obtain high-magnification photographs through a spotting scope because the guillemot rarely paused more than 5–10 seconds between dives in the rolling swells. I returned on 1 January 2008 for a more leisurely study (10:00–12:00 hr) and obtained better photographs of the guillemot, including several taken through a spotting scope (Swarovski HD–ATS 65).

The guillemot's unmarked white wing patch and pale body plumage indicate it was an adult in definitive basic plumage (Fig. 1). The body plumage was white with a prominent black crescent in front of the eye, faint black flecking on the crown, and black mottling on the mantle, upper tail coverts, and scapular tips. Primaries, secondaries, and rectrices were black. The unmarked wing patch was observed at close range (8–15 m) in excellent light. The absence of black markings on the greater wing coverts ruled out the similar Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*), which in any case is unknown from the Atlantic Ocean. The identification was also corroborated by a fortuitous photograph of the diving guillemot which showed 12 rectrices typical of *Cepphus grylle* (Pigeon Guillemots usually have 14 rectrices). The legs and feet were reddish-orange; the bill was black and sharply pointed.

The guillemot appeared to be healthy and unimpaired. It actively foraged around the submerged boulders along the base of the jetty and paused only a few times to preen during the observation period. Several relatively large but unidentified prey items were brought to the surface for processing and consumption. The guillemot took flight twice, once across the inlet from jetty to jetty and the second time from the middle of the west jetty around the tip to the opposite side. The circuitous route was at least 500 m when a direct flight across the jetty would have been less than 40 m. The guillemot was reported irregularly by observers through early February 2008.

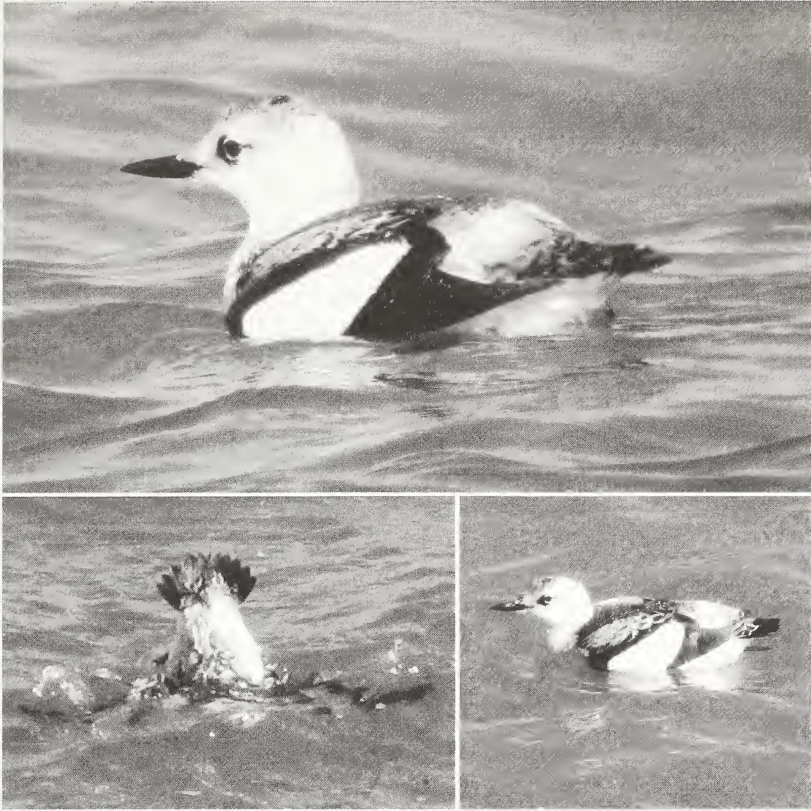


Figure 1. Adult Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) at the west jetty at Murrells Inlet, Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, South Carolina. Photographs taken on 1 January 2008 by Gary R. Graves.

Black Guillemots exhibit subtle geographic variation with the amount of white in definitive basic plumage increasing from south to north in the breeding populations of the western Atlantic (Cramp 1985). The degree of dorsal mottling on the Murrells Inlet guillemot suggests that it originated from one of the more southerly breeding populations. In the western Atlantic, Black Guillemots winter irregularly south to Long Island with few documented records south of New Jersey (AOU 1998). The species has been reported several times in South Carolina (Burton 1970; Probst 1976) but only two previous records have been accepted by the South Carolina Bird Records Committee, an immature in first basic plumage photographed in November–December 1992 at the west jetty at Murrells Inlet (Buerger 1993), and a second individual at Litchfield Beach in 1994 (Worthington 1995). Worthington states the date of that observation as 29 Dec 1994 but the correct date was 29 Jan 1994, during the winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club (Kent Fiala, pers. comm.). The present sighting is the third

accepted record for South Carolina. The Murrells Inlet records represent the southernmost occurrences of Black Guillemot in North America that are documented by diagnostic photographs. I thank Will Post, Robin Carter, Donna Slyce, Jack Peachey, and Taylor Piephoff for providing information.

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Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—June 1958

B. Rhett Chamberlain and Thomas W. Simpson provided a summary of changes in the fifth edition of the *AOU Check-List of North American Birds*, which was published in 1957. This was the first new edition since 1931 (and would be the last until 1983). The authors began with some tongue-in-cheek complaints about all the new names that birders would have to learn, such as Peregrine Falcon instead of Duck Hawk, Whimbrel instead of Hudsonian Curlew, and Swainson's instead of Olive-backed Thrush, then explained that the new Check-List summarized the current opinions of ornithologists regarding the relationships of North American birds. Most important, this was the first edition that provided standard common names for species, and it discontinued common names for subspecies. For those species that were divided into subspecies, previous editions provided common names for each subspecies, but no single common name for the species as a whole. As Chamberlain and Simpson noted, the new emphasis on species-level names meant that "Sight records should not now be colored by the 'false accuracy' of presumptive subspecific identification through binoculars."

Because of the lack of a general standard set of common names for species, each publication adopted its own standard species names, resulting in multiple standards. In 1953 *The Chat* had published a list of common names that was to be its standard. Some of these names seem to have been at variance with more widespread usage (for example, Small-billed Water-Thrush instead of Northern Water-Thrush), and some of them (for example, Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren) foresaw later AOU changes. This list already adopted Peregrine Falcon and Swainson's Thrush, which the authors noted in text as new names in the AOU fifth edition.

On *The Chat*'s list of common names, the fifth edition changed 49 in some way, including 16 changed only by deletion of a hyphen. Among the changes were

New	Old
White-tailed Tropic-bird	Yellow-billed Tropic-bird
Great Cormorant	Common or European Cormorant
Common Scoter	American Scoter
Sora	Sora Rail
American Golden Plover	Golden Plover
Whimbrel	Hudsonian Curlew
Short-billed Dowitcher	Dowitcher (split)
Long-billed Dowitcher	
Black-legged Kittiwake	Kittiwake
Razorbill	Razor-billed Auk

Chamberlain and Simpson's summary ends with an admonition to "Browse through a copy of this book when the chance arises. Look up the Cattle Egret and its reported distribution. Note the terse comment on the Carolina Parakeet and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Note too the usual winter ranges of the Broad-winged Hawk and the Baltimore Oriole. You will

probably be intrigued by many of the entries in the Hypothetical List.” I find this selection of species accounts somewhat enigmatic. Since the Broad-winged Hawk account indicates that the usual winter range is far from the Carolinas (although three US records, none from the Carolinas, are mentioned), I wonder if this was a cautionary note to some who had claimed winter sightings; or it may simply have been an optimistic comparison with the Baltimore Oriole account, which likewise describes the winter range as tropical but mentions that the species has been recorded occasionally in the eastern US “especially since about 1951”.

Distributional notes of modern interest in this issue’s General Field Notes included a note by Joseph R. Norwood on Wood Ibis (now Wood Stork) nesting inland at Lennons Marsh, near Lumberton, NC. Among large flocks of herons coming to roost on 28 August 1957, he and James L. Stephens, Jr. observed three Wood Storks, described as the first seen at the marsh since 1955, the last “large flock” having been seen in 1943. They noted Robert Allen’s report that the population was “alarmingly low since they have not had a successful nesting season in Florida in some years.”

Harry T. Davis of the NC State Museum published a “confirmation of old reports” of Sandhill Crane in NC. Apparently, previous reports of Sandhill Crane in the state were regarded as little more than rumors, but in November 1957 the State Museum received two heads of Sandhill Cranes that had been shot on 19 Nov 1957 near Lennon’s Marsh in Robeson County by a hunter who mistook them for Canada Geese. Only the heads were preserved, the bodies having been “plucked for eating”.

Edna Lanier Appleberry (CBC President) reported two isolated sightings of female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at locations three miles apart in Wilmington in Dec 1957 and March 1958. The editor added a note that these might more likely have been Rufous Hummingbirds, with the comment “We believe that they cannot be separated in the field without considerable experience.”

Robert A. Norris reported collecting the first specimen of Western Meadowlark in South Carolina. He had observed the bird during a project involving trapping and marking Eastern Meadowlarks, and collected it because it appeared to be a Western. The skin was sent to meadowlark expert Wesley Lanyon of the American Museum of Natural History, who confirmed the identification “with the same degree of assurance as marks the morphological identification of any meadowlark at the present time.”

— *Kent Fiala, editor*

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2007–2008, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: This species continues to increase in south-coastal South Carolina, as evidenced by a record count of 211 on the ACE Basin CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Nate Dias).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Most unexpected was the flock of 19 Greater White-fronteds discovered on the Alligator River NWR (ARNWR) CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan). This flock increased to 21 on 16–17

Feb (Ricky Davis, Larry Meade) and remained until at least 28 Feb (John Haire). In South Carolina, three were at Santee NWR late Dec into Jan (*vide* Robin Carter).

SNOW GOOSE: This species also continues to increase and this year's count at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC was up to 85,000 (sev. obs.)! There were also more inland reports of note such as 19 at the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, SC 14 Dec (Lloyd Moon) and 11 on the Pee Dee NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (Judy Walker et al.).

ROSS'S GOOSE: There were also more reports of this goose than usual. The best counts involved four at the Pungo Unit, NC 26 Jan–2 Feb (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), three at Camp Pinewood, Henderson County, NC 2 Dec (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), two on the Clemson, SC CBC 22 Dec (*vide* Drew Lanham), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 5 Jan (Steve Calver), two at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Dec (Davis), and two in Brevard, NC from the fall season until at least 10 Jan (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.). Other reports of note included singles at Meat Camp Creek, Watauga County, NC 11 Feb (Curtis Smalling), in Greensboro, NC the first three weeks of Dec (Melissa Whitmire et al.), at the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, SC 2 Dec (Carroll Richard, Kathleen O'Grady), and at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC 4–5 Dec (Randy Climpson).

CAKCLING GOOSE: There were three sightings of this goose this winter, with singles being noted on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 16 Dec (Susan Campbell), at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 26 Jan (Ricky Davis), and at the Pungo Unit, NC 5 Feb (Derb Carter).



Cackling Goose, 5 Feb 2008, Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR. Photo by Derb Carter.

TUNDRA SWAN: Some interesting reports away from the usual northeastern NC wintering area included five at Pee Dee NWR, NC 26 Jan (Lena Gallitano et al.), two in the Cross area of L. Moultrie, Berkeley County, SC 4 Jan (Sean Williams), one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 7 Dec (Ricky Davis), and one at L. Brandt, Guilford County, NC 19 Dec (Robert Smith).

WOOD DUCK: An extraordinary count of this species was the 1,556 tallied on the Pinewood, SC CBC 4 Jan (*fide* Robin Carter). This was easily one of the highest counts of this species ever reported from the Carolinas.

EURASIAN WIGEON: North Carolina once again hosted this species, with up to three in the Bodie–Pea Islands area of the Outer Banks all winter (m. obs.), up to three at L. Mattamuskeet 27 Jan (Harry & Edmund LeGrand), and one on Lilliput Pond, New Bern 9 Feb into the spring (Al Gamache).

MOTTLED DUCK: The pair of Mottleds from the fall at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC was joined by another male 11 Dec (Randy Climpson). These birds were seen off and on throughout the winter; and then a male (the second one?) was seen at nearby Ocean Isle Beach 7 Feb paired up with a female Mallard (Climpson)!

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: A “Common” Green-winged Teal was a good find on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Ricky Davis), in an area where this form has been seen several times before.

COMMON EIDER: North Carolina reports of Common Eider included at least two in the Beaufort–Fort Macon area throughout the winter (Randy Newman, Susan Boyd, sev. obs.), three at the Cedar Island ferry terminal 25 Jan (Chris Marsh, Bill Hamel) and 3 Feb (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), two flying south at Kill Devil Hills 15 Dec (Ricky Davis), one at Oregon Inlet 28 Dec–26 Jan (m. obs.), and one at Stumpy Point bay 8 Dec (Jeff Lewis) being somewhat unusual away from the beaches and inlets. South Carolina’s sightings this winter involved single immature male Commons at Folly Beach 18 Jan (Roger Smith) to at least 3 Feb (Cherrie Sneed), at the Springmaid Pier, Myrtle Beach 1 Feb (Robin Carter et al.), and at Hunting Island State Park 8 Feb (Carter, Dennis Forsythe). A female-plumaged bird was at the Apache Campground Pier, Myrtle Beach 29 Jan (Bob and Judy Maxwell, Jack Peachey).

INLAND SCOTERS: Inland scoters were mentioned frequently this winter. Surf Scoter reports included one off Ebenezer Point, Jordan Lake, NC 1 Dec (Phil Warren, Bob Rybczynski, Doug Shadwick), four in the Haw River section of Jordan Lake 1 Dec (Warren), one at L. Marion, Santee NWR, SC 14 Dec (Lloyd Moon), and one at Winston L., Winston-Salem, NC 24 Jan (Ferenc Domoki, John Haire). Two White-winged Scoters were on L. Tillery, Stanly County, NC 23 Feb (Ron Clark et al.).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: This winter’s noteworthy inland sightings involved three on L. Keowee, Oconee County, SC 14 Dec (Paul Champlin) and one at the Blewett Falls L., NC dam 26 Jan (Lena Gallitano et al.). South Carolina Long-taileds included two on the Charleston CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Jeff Mollenhauer), one at the Apache Campground Pier, Myrtle Beach 29 Jan

(Bob & Judy Maxwell, Jack Peachey), and one near Bulls Is., Cape Romain NWR 2 Feb (Robin Carter et al.).

HOODED MERGANSER: Hooded Mergansers seemed to be in the Carolinas in better-than-average numbers this winter; one of the better counts was the 1000+ wintering at the Goldsboro, NC WTP (Eric Dean).

COMMON MERGANSER: The best count of this species came from the usual wintering site at L. Phelps, NC when 50 were noted 31 Dec (Harry LeGrand). Elsewhere notable reports included at least four on L. Waccamaw, NC 25 Jan (Greg Massey, Harry Sell) and 20–21 Feb (John Fussell), four on L. Marion, SC 4 Jan (Sean Williams), two on the L. Wateree, SC CBC 3 Jan (*fide* Donna Slyce), one on the Portsmouth Island, NC CBC 31 Dec (Jeff Beane et al.), and one at Jordan L., NC 8 Jan (Ricky Davis).

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one Red-throated was found inland this winter, that being off Shull Island, L. Murray, SC 30 Jan (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman).

HORNED GREBE: Sixteen Horned Grebes at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 11 Jan (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) provided a good winter count for that mountain locality.

RED-NECKED GREBE: There were few reports of this grebe in the Carolinas this winter. The only ones mentioned were singles at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 20 Dec until spring (Doug Shadwick, m. obs.), near Bulls Island, C. Romain NWR, SC 22 Dec (Nate Dias), and in the waterway at the Shallotte River, Brunswick County, NC 8 Jan (Roy Slack).

EARED GREBE: Eared Grebe reports included one to two at Jordan L., NC 26 Dec (Harry LeGrand) until at least 8 Jan (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.) and one at the Murrell's Inlet, SC jetty 5–6 Jan (Nate Dias, Roger Smith, Ricky Davis) and again 23 Feb (Jerry Kirschner).

GREATER SHEARWATER: One off Hatteras, NC 17 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.) was quite rare, being only the second found by Patteson during February.

MANX SHEARWATER: This species is a regular winter visitor offshore, thus sightings close to shore are of interest. Two were tallied on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Brian Patteson, George Armistead), and one was seen from shore in the Nags Head, NC area 29 Dec (Marshall Iliff).

NORTHERN GANNET: The L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC had 142 Northern Gannets 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan), a good number for the western portion of Pamlico Sound.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The best counts of this increasing species included 560 on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Pete Laurie), 111 at the Nemours Wildlife Foundation, Yemassee, SC 21 Jan (Gretchen Nareff), 100+ at Pea Island NWR, NC 4 Jan (Ed Corey), 50 at Lake Landing, L. Mattamuskeet, NC 10 Feb (Mike Johnson), and 18 at Huntington Beach State Park, SC 28 Dec (Stephen Thomas). Very good finds inland were the 12 at the upper end of High Rock L., Rowan County, NC 16 Feb (Anthony Sharum).

GREAT CORMORANT: Very rare inland were the two Greats found with Double-cresteds off Ebenezer Point, Jordan L., NC 8 Jan (Ricky Davis). How many of this species are overlooked at inland sites with large flocks of Double-cresteds?

ANHINGA: Anhingas seem to be wintering in the Carolinas in ever-increasing numbers. This winter 270 were reported on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton); a most amazing total for the season. In North Carolina, one to two were at L. Mattamuskeet 29 Dec (Jeff Lewis) until at least 16 Feb (Allen Bryan), a good total of eight was had on the New Bern CBC 17 Dec (Bob Holmes), and one was a good find on the Wayne County CBC 15 Dec (Clyde Sorenson).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: A very rare and unexpected winter record was provided by the Magnificent Frigatebird photographed near Avon, NC 17 Feb (Larry Meade). This was only about the fifth winter sighting for that state.

GREAT EGRET: Noteworthy western North Carolina Great Egret reports involved one to two at Beaver L., Asheville 2–4 Dec (Vin Stanton, Kevin Caldwell), and one on the Tryon CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Simon Thompson).

SNOWY EGRET: Three on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Robin Carter) provided a good count for that locality in winter.

REDDISH EGRET: Always good finds during the winter in the Carolinas, Reddish Egrets were noted at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, SC 2 Feb (Carolina Bird Club meeting participants), at nearby Murphy Island, SC 10 Feb (Nate Dias, John Cox), and at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 9–29 Dec (Jeff Lewis, Gene Howe et al.). The latter bird possibly represented the most northerly winter report ever for this species.



Reddish Egret, 9 Dec 2007, L. Mattamuskeet. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: The Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC once again harbored lingering spoonbills, with five still there 5 Jan (Steve Calver).

WOOD STORK: One near Fuquay-Varina, Wake County, NC 23 Feb (Richard Carter) provided a very rare inland winter sighting for that state.

OSPREY: Ospreys are found in small numbers along the immediate coast of North Carolina from about Morehead City south each winter. Inland winter Ospreys are considerably more unusual, and this season singles were on the Pee Dee NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (Judy Walker et al.), at Coddle Creek Res., Cabarrus County, NC 25 Jan (Tomm Lorenzin), and at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 4 Feb (Ricky Davis). The latter two could possibly represent early returning spring migrants.

WHITE-TAILED KITE: One was apparently present in the southern Richland County, SC area near Wateree this winter, although it was seen by only a few observers. First noted 16 Dec during the Congaree Swamp CBC (John Grego, Robin Carter et al), it was also seen briefly 31 Dec (Caroline Eastman) and again 31 Jan (Matthew Moskwik). There are now about a dozen reports of this species in that state.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Only one was mentioned this winter, that being from the usual Alligator River NWR, NC area 30 Dec (John Fussell, Ricky Davis) and 2 Feb (Derb Carter).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Golden Eagles were found in both states again this season. In North Carolina an immature was near Wallace, Duplin County in early Dec (*vide* John Bartlett), an immature was noted at Peach Bottom Mt., Alleghany County 22 Dec (Allen Boynton), two adults were noted near Gibsonville, Guilford County 16 Feb (Derb Carter, Kent Fiala), and an immature was at Pee Dee NWR 23 Feb (Ron Clark et al.). In South Carolina one was found on the Winyah Bay CBC 20 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover).

MERLIN: Noteworthy inland Merlin reports included singles on the Brevard, NC CBC 28 Dec (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and near Gibsonville, Guilford County, NC 16 Feb (Derb Carter, Kent Fiala).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Locally unusual winter Peregrine Falcons were noted at Ebenezer Point, Jordan L., NC 14 Dec (Ginger Travis et al.), on the Falls L., NC CBC 2 Jan (Brian Bockhahn), and on the Roanoke Rapids, NC CBC 5 Jan (Merrill Lynch et al.).

BLACK RAIL: This elusive species winters in small numbers in the Carolinas, thus any report is worth mentioning. Single Black Rails were noted on the Southport, NC CBC 4 Jan (Sam Cooper et al.) and on the Wilmington, NC CBC 5 Jan (Greg Massey).

SORA: One found at the L. Wylie headwaters in Mecklenburg County, NC on the Charlotte CBC 22 Dec (Alan Kneidel) was locally unusual for the winter.

COMMON MOORHEN: The Common Moorhen from the fall season in Henderson County, NC was present all winter into the spring season (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Marilyn Westphal). This is most likely an unprecedented wintering record for this species in the mountains.

SANDHILL CRANE: Sandhill Cranes were widely reported across the Carolinas this winter. South Carolina reports involved a possible record state total of 20 on the Santee NWR CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Robin Carter), six near Heath Springs, Lancaster County late Dec–18 Jan (Lex Glover, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), four at Palm Key, Jasper County 19 Jan (*fide* Gary Phillips), three over Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County 8 Dec (Paul Serridge), and three on the Columbia CBC 5 Jan (Robin Carter et al.). North Carolina reports included nine in southeastern Guilford County 4 Dec (*fide* Dennis Burnette), nine near Hobgood, Halifax County 27 Jan (Ricky Davis) which were joined by another 5 Feb until the spring (Derb Carter, Davis), six over Greensboro 18 Dec (Henry Link et al.), two at North River, Carteret County 16–18 Dec (Dennis Chadwick, John Fussell, Carol Reigle) and possibly the same two near Swansboro, Carteret County in mid-Jan (*fide* Fussell), one flying with Canada Geese in Madison County 12 Dec (Kevin Caldwell), one in Henderson County 22–30 Dec (Marilyn Westphal, sev. obs.), and one in Happy Valley, Caldwell County 28 Jan–19 Feb (Jim Wagner, Dwayne Martin).



Sandhill Cranes, 27 Jan 2008, Halifax Co., NC. Photo by Ricky Davis.

WILSON'S PLOVER: Six was the peak winter count of this species at Ft. Macon, NC 16 Dec, as noted by John Fussell. Five were still present there 12 Jan (Fussell et al.).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Four lingered at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC until 19 Dec, while one wintered there for the second winter in a row (Steve Calver).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Good numbers of this species lingered at several sites this winter, with the best count being an impressive 32 tallied on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton). Other interesting Spotted Sandpiper reports included one to the north at Ocracoke, NC 30 Dec (Jeff Beane et al.), a good count of three inland on the Wayne County, NC

CBC 15 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade), and one farther inland on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell).

WILLET: Two were locally good finds on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The traditional wintering site for this species at Cape Romain NWR, SC harbored at least seven this year (Nate Dias).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: One at Falls Lake, on the Durham, NC CBC 17 Dec (Brian Bockhahn) provided a very rare and unexpected winter sighting for that inland location.

SANDERLING: Another rare inland winter sandpiper from Falls Lake, NC was the Sanderling found there 17 Feb, as noted by Brian Bockhahn.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: One at Jordan Lake, NC 22 Dec (Derb Carter) was most likely a very late lingering fall migrant.

LEAST SANDPIPER: This species lingered at several inland sites in impressive numbers, no doubt due to the low water levels from the ongoing drought. The best counts were the 238 at Jordan Lake, NC 21 Dec (Phil Warren), 175+ at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 8 Dec (Eric Dean et al.), and 80 at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 7 Dec (Ricky Davis). Also the S. Lake Norman, NC CBC had a respectable tally of 17 on 16 Dec (Taylor Piephoff).

STILT SANDPIPER: This species regularly winters at a few sites in south-coastal South Carolina and this season's reports included 31 on the Hilton Head Island CBC 15 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd), 20 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County 5 Jan (Steve Calver), and two at Bear Island WMA 16 Feb (Steve Tracey).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: The peak count at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC this winter was an impressive 505 on 23 Jan, as noted by Steve Calver.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC has long been recognized as the best place to find Wilson's Phalaropes in the Carolinas from spring to fall. This season one spent the entire winter there, a most unusual event (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: One found on the Salt Pond at Cape Hatteras, NC 27 Dec (Chris Eley, Ricky Davis) was extremely rare, as there are only a couple of previous winter reports on land in that state.

RED PHALAROPE: The most interesting sightings of this regular offshore wintering species included 18 just off the beach during the Cape Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Brian Patteson, George Armistead) and 40 only 10 miles off Cape Lookout, NC 7 Jan (Jack Fennell).

LAUGHING GULL: Locally good inland winter sightings included two at Nutbush, Kerr Lake, Vance County, NC 15 Dec (Harry LeGrand) and one on the Goldsboro, NC CBC 15 Dec (John & Paula Wright).

LITTLE GULL: This species was noted several times off Hatteras, NC this winter, with the best count being three on 2 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Only one was mentioned from shore, that being an adult flying south with Bonaparte's Gulls at Kill Devil Hills, NC 15 Dec (Ricky Davis).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: The adult Black-headed Gull returned for the third winter at the causeway at L. Mattamuskeet, NC in Dec and remained throughout the period (sev. obs.).



Black-headed Gull, 12 or 13 Jan 2008, L. Mattamuskeet. Photo by David Disher.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: An impressive count of 6,900+ Bonaparte's flying south was made at Kill Devil Hills, NC 15 Dec (Ricky Davis).

CALIFORNIA GULL: This rare but regular winter visitor was noted more often than usual with reports involving an adult at C. Hatteras, NC 3 Dec (Brian Patteson), two (adult, second-winter) at Oregon Inlet, NC 28 Dec (John Fussell, Neal Moore; Ricky Davis), and single adults off Hatteras, NC 19 and 23 Jan (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

THAYER'S GULL: Only one was mentioned this winter, that being an adult off the beach during the Cape Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Brian Patteson, George Armistead).

ICELAND GULL: Coastal sightings included a first-winter bird at the north end of Carolina Beach, NC 5 Dec (Ricky Davis), a second-winter at C. Hatteras, NC 21 Jan (Brian Patteson) and 26 Jan (Bruce Young, Rick Payne), and one off Hatteras, NC 2 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Less expected inland were a second-winter bird at the North Raleigh, NC landfill 2 Jan (Clyde Smith, Jim Mulholland, Will Kimler) and a first-winter at the Jacksonville, NC landfill 11 Feb (Greg Massey, Harry Sell).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Noteworthy reports of this species usually involve inland sightings now, as coastal numbers continue to increase. Inland reports also are increasing as evidenced by the following: up to two adults and one first-winter at Falls Lake, NC 9 Dec–3 Feb (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand), at least three adults and one first-winter at the North Raleigh, NC landfill during the winter (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Davis, sev.

obs.), four (one adult, two third-year, one second-winter) on the Goldsboro, NC CBC 15 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade), one first-winter at Jordan Lake, NC 26 Dec (LeGrand), and an adult at the Winslow Sod Farm, Scotland Neck, NC 20 Jan (Davis). Also an adult on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Davis) was a first for that count.

GLAUCOUS GULL: This winter's reports involved single first-winter birds at Ft. Fisher, NC and Carolina Beach, NC 5 Dec (Ricky Davis), a first-winter at the North Raleigh, NC landfill 28 Jan (Nathan Swick) and 9 Feb (Brian Bockhahn), a second-winter bird at Bulls Island, SC 27 Dec (Stephen Thomas), and a second-winter at the Jacksonville, NC landfill 9 Feb (Andy Webb).



Glaucous Gull, 9 Feb 2008, Jacksonville, NC. Photo by Andy Webb.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: The best inland count was the three at Falls Lake, NC 18 Jan, as noted by Jacob Socolar. This species has become regular at a few inland sites in the eastern half of North Carolina.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: This species is usually found offshore during the winter, thus of note are sightings from shore. This winter an adult was flying south just off the beach at Kill Devil Hills, NC 15 Dec (Ricky Davis) and a first-winter bird was noted at C. Hatteras, NC 12 Jan (Brian Patteson).

SANDWICH TERN: This species is normally gone from the Carolinas during the winter season, thus of note were one on the Sun City-Okatie, SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton) and two on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC 20 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover).

GREAT SKUA: This species is regularly found on pelagic trips off Hatteras, NC during the winter. This season they were noted during at least five trips in Jan and Feb with the best counts being two to three on 17 and 23 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

POMARINE JAEGER: This species is noted much less frequently during the winter than Parasitic, thus of interest were the singles at the north end of Carolina Beach, NC 5 Dec (Ricky Davis) and off the Garden City, SC beach 2 Jan (David Abbott).

PARASITIC JAEGER: This winter's reports involved one off the beach on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Brian Patteson, George Armistead), one during the Charleston, SC CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Jeff Mollenhauer), one just off the beach at Wrightsville Beach, NC 5 Jan (Ricky Davis), and one off Hatteras, NC 9 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

DOVEKIE: Dovekies staged one of their best movements into North Carolina in several years this winter. Many reports involved sick or injured birds on or near shore such as one being "rescued from a cat" at Salvo 23 Dec (Gabe White), one picked up from Masonboro Inlet 23 Dec that later died (*fide* Robin Wood), one picked up on the beach at Nags Head 26 Dec (*fide* Skip Morgan), and at least eight that were picked up alive but later died in Carteret County during the winter (*fide* John Fussell). Other reports included one off the beach during the C. Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (Brian Patteson, George Armistead), one at Onslow Beach during the Camp Lejeune CBC 5 Jan (Craig TenBrink), two just off C. Hatteras point 9 Jan (Patteson), six in the waterway near Southport 16 Jan (Juanita Roushdy), one at C. Hatteras point 3 Feb (Derb Carter), one at Coquina Beach 17 Feb (Ricky Davis), and one off Shackleford Banks, Carteret County 6 Jan and mid-Feb (*fide* Fussell). Dovekies were also present offshore in good numbers, with the best counts during pelagic trips off Hatteras being 80 on 26 Jan and 100+ on 2 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

RAZORBILL: Razorbills were also in the Carolinas in good numbers, with the best offshore counts off Hatteras, NC being 70+ on 26 Jan and 35 on 2 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and off Charleston, SC being six on 8 Feb (*fide* Nate Dias). Other reports of note included 16 at Coquina Beach, NC 17 Feb (Ricky Davis), 13 on the Wilmington, NC CBC 5 Jan (Sam Cooper, Davis), two at Figure Eight Is., NC 28 Dec (Derb Carter), three just off C. Hatteras point 8 Jan (Patteson), and two at Nags Head, NC 2 Jan (Carter).

BLACK GUILLEMOT: One in winter plumage showed up at the Murrell's Inlet, SC jetty 29 Dec (Gary Graves) and was seen very sporadically (sev. obs.) until at least 3 Feb (*fide* Jerry Kirschner). Photographs nicely documented this third record of the species for South Carolina.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: There were two to three individuals found on at least four pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC this winter. The most interesting sighting was an adult, rarely found this far south, on 23 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One in Myrtle Beach, SC 27 Feb (Dick Rosche, *fide* Nate Dias) provided the only report this winter.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: Four in southern Richland County, SC 31 Dec (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) were locally good finds, as this species continues to be found at an increasing number of inland sites.

SHORT-EARED OWL: Locally noteworthy were one to two at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 19 Dec–5 Jan (Steve Calver), one on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 30 Dec (Nate Dias), and three at North River, Carteret County, NC 3 Feb (Jack Fennell).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: This species apparently wintered across the Carolinas in good numbers. Reports involved one being banded at Hilton Pond, York, SC 14 Dec (Bill Hilton, Jr.), one heard on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC 20 Dec (Chris Hill, *vide* Lex Glover), one heard in the Bodie Island, NC lighthouse woods 29 Dec (Marshall Iliff), one found dead in Orange County, NC 1 Jan (Cynthia Fox), and one being seen near Halifax, NC 28 Jan (Mary Enders).

NIGHTHAWK SP.: One seen flying in a parking lot near Oriental, Pamlico County, NC 18 Dec (Olwen Jarvis et al.) was not observed well enough to determine the species. Lesser Nighthawk is just as likely a possibility as Common during the winter season.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Three Chucks being found during one winter season was quite unusual for this rare winter lingerer. Singles were noted on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Helen Chatterton), at Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, SC 22 Dec (Nate Dias), and in the Bodie Island, NC lighthouse woods 28 Dec (John Fussell, Harry & George Armistead).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: Only one Whip was located this winter, with a bird being flushed near Ridgeway, SC 2 Dec (Donna Slyce).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD: A male was at the feeder of Annabeth and Donald Proctor in Rockville, Charleston County, SC from mid-Dec through Jan (Bill Hilton, Jr., m. obs.). The bird was banded and photographed, and was the second for that state, with the first being a male seen at Seneca 30 July 1985.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Rare inland away from the usual coastal areas in winter, good sightings included an immature male during the Southern Pines, NC CBC 16 Dec (Susan Campbell) and one in Durham, NC 26 Jan (Campbell).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: This winter's Black-chinned Hummingbirds included a female on James Island, SC 17 Dec until the end of the month (John Weinstein, Doreen Cubie), an adult male for the third winter in a row at Murrell's Inlet, SC (Gary Phillips), an immature male at feeders in Manteo, NC 12 Jan–17 Feb (Jeff Lewis), and one near Wilmington, NC in mid-Jan (Bruce Jones).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: This winter saw an increase in the number of Calliope Hummingbird reports over the last several years. A female was on James Island, SC throughout the winter (John Weinstein, Doreen Cubie), an immature male was at a feeder in Monroe, Union County, NC early Dec until spring (Sharon Funderburk, Taylor Piephoff, m. obs.), an immature was at Price Park, Greensboro, NC in late Dec (Scott DePue, Melissa Whitmire, sev. obs.), one was in northern Greenville, SC 29 Dec (J. B. Hines, Robin Carter), and two were present at the same feeder at L. Lanier, SC from the late fall through early winter (Charles Webb, *vide* Simon Thompson). The latter report of two at one location is a first for this rare hummingbird in the Carolinas.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: A female Vermilion was a good find at Slanns Island, Charleston County, SC 13–18 Jan (Nate Dias; sev. obs.). There are now about a dozen reports of this western flycatcher for that state.



Vermilion Flycatcher, 18 Jan 2008, Slanns Island, SC. Photo by Steve Kilpatrick.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: This winter's reports of Western Kingbird involved one at Manteo, NC from the fall until at least 16 Dec (Jeff Lewis), one at the north end of Ocracoke Island, NC 30 Dec (Paul DeAnna, Hal Broadfoot), one at Bear Island WMA, SC 5–12 Jan (Sean Williams, Nate Dias, Chris Snook), one at Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County, SC 27 Jan–2 Feb (Melinda Stamp; Carolina Bird Club meeting participants), and one on Kiawah Is., SC 3 Feb (Peter & Adam Nelson).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: One in the southern Hendersonville, NC area, present from the fall into mid-winter (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Peggy Franklin, Tom Cameron), was rather unusual for that mountain locality.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: The farthest north that this species was found this winter was at Manteo, NC 15 Dec during the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC (Jeff Lewis). Also, one was a good find on the nearby Bodie-Pea Islands CBC 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: One singing at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC 10 Feb (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin) was interesting, as the species does not normally winter there, and it was too early for a spring migrant! One was also locally unusual on Portsmouth Island, NC 31 Dec (Paul DeAnna).

FISH CROW: Several were present in a large (1500+) American Crow roost at Greensboro, NC this winter (Melissa Whitmire), indicating that a few individuals of this species now winter in the piedmont. Numbers of coastal wintering Fish Crows have been declining the last several years, thus

of interest was the tally of 41,000+ on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 30 Dec (Nate Dias).

COMMON RAVEN: Sightings continued in the Raleigh–Durham, NC area with one at the Butner Game Lands, Durham County 16 Dec and 23 Jan (Norm Budnitz, Patsy Bailey), two on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC 23 Dec (Jane Brinkley, *fide* Will Cook), and one at Occoneechee Mt., Orange County 28 Dec and 3 Feb (Greg Dodge, Brian Bockhahn).

HORNED LARK: Locally rare were the five to six Horned Larks on the beach in the Cape Hatteras, NC area 27 Dec (Pat Moore et al.) until at least 17 Feb (Moore, Nathan Swick, Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One, a rare winter find at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 29–30 Jan (Eric Dean), was possibly a very early returning spring bird.

CAVE SWALLOW: This species lingered from the fall season influx in good numbers again this winter. The best counts involved 15 at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 31 Dec (Harry LeGrand) with at least five still there 7 Jan (Rick Knight) and up to 10 at Pawley's Island, SC 2–3 Jan (Wendy Allen et al., Jack Peachey). Other reports included one at Bulls Is., Cape Romain NWR, SC 22 Dec (Nate Dias), three at L. Landing, L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Dec (Ricky Davis), five in the Pea Island–Oregon Inlet, NC area 2 Jan (Derb Carter), and two at Ft. Fisher, NC 4 Jan (Davis).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Large numbers continued into the winter throughout the Carolinas. A count of 25 on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC 23 Dec was their best since 1981 (*fide* Will Cook).

HOUSE WREN: Two on the New River, NC CBC 22 Dec (Jack & Elizabeth Scott) were good finds for that mountain locality during winter.

GRAY CATBIRD: One found during the Buncombe County, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Steve Semanchuk) provided a rare mountain winter sighting.

NORTHERN PARULA: Rare in winter, Northern Parulas were found at Ft. Fisher, NC 4 Jan (Ricky Davis) and at Meggett, SC 19 Jan (Cherrie Sneed).

YELLOW WARBLER: Only slightly less rare in winter than the preceding species, noteworthy Yellow Warbler reports involved one along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 27 Dec (Allen Bryan), one on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 30 Dec (Nate Dias), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 5 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One at the Georgetown, SC WTP 13 Jan (Dick Rosche, *fide* Nate Dias) was most unusual, as the species is not normally found in the Carolinas during winter.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: This species is a regular winter resident along the immediate southern coast, usually in very small numbers. This winter some impressive counts were had including 63 on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton) and 38 on the Hilton Head Is., SC CBC 15 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd). Other interesting reports away from the coast included a good count of four on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Robin Carter) and one on the Raleigh, NC CBC 15 Dec (Clyde Smith et al.).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: There were several good counts along the coast, where the species is a regular winter resident in very small numbers. Up to five were noted at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC during the winter (John Fussell) and three were found on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (*vide* Allen Bryan). Much rarer inland, locally noteworthy Prairies were found at Columbia, SC 16 Jan (John Grego) and at Charlotte, NC 4–22 Dec (Taylor Piephoff). The latter bird was most unusual in that this species is practically never found in the piedmont during winter.

PALM WARBLER: Locally rare during winter were the three to six Palms present in the Mills River, Henderson County, NC area throughout the winter period (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe et al.).

AMERICAN REDSTART: One of the rarest warblers in the Carolinas during winter, the American Redstart was noted twice this season. One was at Savannah NWR, SC 3 Jan (Steve Kilpatrick), an area that has hosted the species in winter previously. Much more unusual and totally unexpected in the piedmont was the American Redstart seen well at close range near Statesville, NC 27 Feb (Patric Patterson). One wonders if this was an extremely early spring migrant or a very lost wintering bird.

OVENBIRD: A record winter count of 19 was had on the Cape Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (John Fussell, Paul Sykes et al.) from an area that has historically harbored a small wintering population.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Only one of this rare-but-regular wintering warbler was noted, that being at the usual Savannah Spoil Site, SC area 5 Jan (Dennis Forsythe, *vide* Steve Calver).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: One was a total surprise on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Ricky Davis; Allen Bryan, John Wright). The bird, found in the L. Landing area of the refuge, was noted (and photographed) again 1 Jan (Derb Carter et al.). This was only the second to be found in North Carolina, with the first being a road-killed bird found only about 10 air miles away on the south side of the lake 6 Nov 1998!



American Redstart, 3 Jan 2008, Savannah NWR. Photo by Steve Kilpatrick.



MacGillivray's Warbler, 1 Jan 2008 Mattamuskeet NWR. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: One was locally unusual for the winter near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 16–25 Feb (Marilyn Westphal, Peggy Franklin).

WILSON'S WARBLER: This species is a rare-but-regular winter visitor, and this year's sightings involved one in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 1 Dec (John Gerwin et al.) and 29 Dec (Ricky Davis), and one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 13 Jan (John Fussell et al.).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: This winter's sightings included singles at Wilmington, NC 6 Dec (Bruce Smithson), on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan), at Ft. Fisher, NC 4 Jan (Ricky Davis), and at Eagle Island, Wilmington, NC 4–5 Jan (John Ennis et al.).

SUMMER TANAGER: This species is normally not found in the Carolinas during winter, thus of note were several in the Carteret–Craven counties area of the central North Carolina coast. One wintered at a Gloucester, Carteret County feeder for the second year in a row (*fide* John Fussell), one also wintered at a feeder in Morehead City (*fide* Fussell), and one was at a feeder in Trentwoods, Craven County 17 Dec and 4 Jan (Joanne Harley). Interestingly, all three birds were adult males!

WESTERN TANAGER: The number of reports of this regular winter visitor was down considerably from the last couple of winters. A male wintered at Conway, SC again, returning for its second year in a row (Gary Phillips), while another male was noted at a feeder in Thrushwood, Lexington County, SC 28 Jan (Marion Clark).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: The only report of this rarely found species was of two on the Alligator River NWR, NC CBC 30 Jan (Jan DeBlieu, *fide* Jeff Lewis).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Noteworthy reports of this locally rare but regular winter visitor included one at Mt. Pleasant, SC 12 Dec and 25 Jan (David Abbott), one at Myrtle Beach, SC 2 Feb (K.C. Foggin), one at Kill Devil Hills, NC 15 Dec (Audrey Whitlock), two at Hobucken, Pamlico County, NC 18 Dec (Bob Holmes, Gene Howe), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 2 Dec and 3 Feb (John Fussell et al.), several near Trenton, NC in early Feb (Clancy Ballenger), and three to six at the usual site near the western end of L. Phelps, NC 27 Dec (Allen Bryan; sev. obs.).

VESPER SPARROW: The best count received of this uncommon wintering sparrow was 13 on the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

LARK SPARROW: The only ones mentioned this winter were found on the Pee Dee NWR, NC CBC, when two were noted 29 Dec (Judy Walker et al.).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: South Carolina had the only reports this winter with singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County 5 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver), on the Savannah River Site CBC 20 Dec (*fide* Mark Vukovich), and one on the Pinewood CBC 4 Jan (*fide* Robin Carter).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: This species is regular but very local in pinewoods habitats in the coastal plain. This winter's reports included two near Columbia, SC 24 Dec (Paul Champlin), one on the Savannah River Site, SC CBC 20 Dec (*fide* Mark Vukovich), one on the Southport, NC CBC 4 Jan (Sam Cooper et al.), and one at the Millis Rd. savanna, Croatan Nat. Forest, NC 26 Jan (John Fussell, Chris Marsh, Bill Hamel).

LECONTE'S SPARROW: There were only three reports of this sparrow during the winter, which is about normal for the season. One was in eastern Pamlico County, NC 18 Dec (John Fussell, Carol Reigle), one was on the Pinewood, SC CBC 4 Jan (*fide* Robin Carter), and three were at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10 Feb until the spring (Fussell et al.).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: The number of reports of this local but regular winter resident was about average for the Carolinas. This season's sightings involved one near Core Creek, Carteret County, NC 7 Dec (John Fussell), one in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC 9 Dec (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), one far inland on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell), one near L. Phelps, NC 27 Dec (Allen Bryan), two on the Southport, NC CBC 4 Jan (Greg Massey et al.), and one on the Wilmington, NC CBC 5 Jan (John Ennis et al.).

DARK-EYED JUNCO : An individual of the western "Oregon" race of this species was photographed at Greensboro, NC 21 Feb (*fide* Jenny Palmer), providing one of a handful of documented records of this form in the Carolinas.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: This winter's reports included five in flight at the Tidewater Res. Station near Roper, NC 26 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand), three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 13 Dec (Wayne Forsythe), and two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 5 Jan (Dennis Forsythe, *fide* Steve Calver).

SNOW BUNTING: This species was present in the Carolinas in somewhat better numbers this winter when compared to the last several. The best counts included 13 at C. Hatteras, NC 26 Jan (Bruce Young, Rick Payne), 10 on Portsmouth Island, NC 31 Dec (Peter Vankevich et al.), seven at C. Hatteras 17 Feb (Pat & Neal Moore, Nathan Swick, Ricky Davis), and five at the jetty at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 4 Jan (*fide* Nate Dias). Others included a "flock" near Frisco, NC 1 Dec (Brian Patteson), several there 27 Dec (Pat & Neal Moore et al.), two at Ft. Macon, NC 12 Jan (John Fussell), and one in flight somewhat inland at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 2 Feb (Derb Carter).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Only one Rose-breasted Grosbeak was mentioned this winter, that being a female-plumaged bird at a feeder in Fairfield Harbour, Craven County, NC 8–17 Dec (Inga Parker).

INDIGO BUNTING: One was a good find on the Southport, NC CBC 4 Jan (Greg Massey et al.), while one was very rare and unusual far inland at Evergreen Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg County, NC 9 Dec (Larry & Louise Barden).

PAINTED BUNTING: North Carolina had multiple reports of Painted Buntings again this winter. A good count of nine was had on the Southport CBC 4 Jan (Greg Massey et al.) and five were in one yard at Marshallberg, Carteret County during the winter (*fide* John Fussell). Much rarer inland were single male Painteds in Princeton, Johnston County 20 Jan (Diane Rose) and nearby Goldsboro 27–30 Jan (Eric & Celia Dean)—possibly the same bird? In South Carolina a male at Mt. Pleasant 15 Feb (David Abbott) was probably too early for a returning spring bird.

DICKCISSEL: One heard in flight during pre-dawn hours at Mt. Pleasant, SC 11 Dec (David Abbott) was most likely a late fall migrant.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: This species is usually found somewhere in the Carolinas each winter. This season's reports involved an immature male near Eastover, Richland County, SC 23 Dec (Nate Dias), a male at Alligator R. NWR, NC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan), a female at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 26 Jan (Ricky Davis), and probably the same female just to the north near L. Phelps, NC 27 Jan (John Haire).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Some excellent counts of this declining species were had and included 1,143 on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 30 Dec (Nate Dias) and 816 in the piedmont on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC 23 Dec (*fide* Will Cook).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: A good count of 28 was had on the Clemson, SC CBC 22 Dec (*fide* Drew Lanham), from an area where the species has been regular in the past.

PURPLE FINCH: This species was present throughout the Carolinas in decent numbers this winter. The best count received was of 100+ at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 16 Dec (Dwayne Martin).

RED CROSSBILL: Reports of this species are always worth mentioning, thus of note were singles at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 28 Dec (Dwayne Martin) and Clemson, SC 3 Jan (Katie Fenlon), and six at the Sandy Mush Game Land, Buncombe County, NC 23 Feb (Jason Giovannone).

COMMON REDPOLL: After the flurry of late fall sightings, North Carolina had five reports during the winter, easily many more than normal for this rarely noted species. Twelve were at Balsam Mountain Preserve, Jackson County 30 Nov–1 Dec (Blair Ogburn, *fide* Don Hendershot), one was at a feeder in Durham 11 Dec (Ryan Bakelaar), one was found (with juncos!) at Whispering Pines during the Southern Pines CBC 16 Dec (Susan Campbell), one was at a feeder in Nags Head 4 Jan (Skip Morgan), and one was at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County 6 Jan (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin).

PINE SISKIN: The best counts reported involved 100+ at Balsam Mountain Preserve, Jackson County, NC 5 Dec (Dwayne Martin) and 50+ in a yard near the coast at Merrimon, Carteret County, NC during Feb (*fide* John Fussell)!

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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The Chat

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2007 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Donna Slyce¹, Chair, Gifford Beaton, Jr., Nathan Dias, Lex Glover, Chris Hill, Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, Steve Wagner

¹ 304 Diamond Lane, Ridgeway, SC 29130

In 2007, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on seven records. Of these, six were accepted and one was not accepted. Among the accepted reports was one record that added a new species to the state list in the Definitive category and two reports that promoted a species from Provisional I status to Definitive status. A detailed report, accompanied by photographs, of an Allen's Hummingbird banded in winter added this species to the state list. Reports accompanied by photographs promoted Northern Goshawk and Common Murre from Provisional I to Definitive status on the state list.

Committee membership did not change in 2007.

The current state list stands at 451 species, including 15 Provisional II species and 14 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the state list can be found online at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc>. The state list available online includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

Accepted reports:

White-tailed Kite (10-06-02) – This bird was observed and documented by Steven Tracey in October at the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR. The report was accepted unanimously by the committee.

Northern Goshawk (01-07-01) – A specimen was found in late December of 2004 on Kiawah Island and photographed by Norm Shea. The photographs were forwarded to Dr. Will Post of the Charleston Museum, who documented the bird for the committee along with Norm Shea and published a General Field Note (Chat 71:30–33). The report was accepted. This accepted report moves Northern Goshawk from the Provisional I category to the Definitive category on the South Carolina state list.

Common Murre (05-06-05) – A report of a bird found at Folly Island and brought in to Susan Bogart for rehabilitation was documented by Susan Bogart and Will Post (Chat 71:127–129). The report was accepted. This accepted report moves Common Murre from the Provisional I category to the Definitive category on the South Carolina state list.

Calliope Hummingbird (12-06-04) – Detailed documentation, including photos and a DVD video, of a bird observed on James Island in the backyard

of Dr. John and Denise Weinstein was submitted to the committee. This well-documented report was accepted unanimously by the committee.

Allen's Hummingbird (01-07-02) – A report of a bird present at a feeder in Lexington that was banded and photographed by Doreen Cubie was written by Bob Sargent and submitted to the committee. The bird was present and banded in early January of 2007. Pertinent details were documented in this concise but thorough report. The report was accepted by the committee. This is a first state record for the species and places the species on the state list in the Definitive category because of the accompanying photographs.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (03-06-01) – An individual of this species was observed in early March of 2006 at Congaree National Park and observed by many. The bird was found by Robin Carter and thoroughly documented with photographs by Steven Tracey along with written documentation and sonograms by Robin Carter. The report was accepted unanimously by the committee.

Reports sent for outside review:

Swainson's Thrush (11-06-03) – A report of a singing Swainson's Thrush observed at Huntington Beach State Park in late November of 2006 did not rule out similar species convincingly and the report occasioned an indecisive vote from the committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then re-submitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

2008 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina

Marilyn Westphal

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Sixteen North Carolina count areas submitted data for the 2008 spring migration count: four from the mountains, eleven from the piedmont/upper coastal plain, and one from the coast. This year the Catawba County count returned after a one-year hiatus, and the Black Mountains count did not take place because much of the Blue Ridge Parkway in that area was closed, making the count area inaccessible. This year's counts were carried out between 26 April and 17 May.

A total of 402 participants counted 79,327 individuals and 229 species in 1,168.4 party-hours. Although there were more participants this year than last year, there were slightly fewer party-hours (actual time spent birding) than last year, and over 7,000 fewer birds, although total species were about the same. Most counts showed fewer individuals than last year, but the greatest decline was with the Onslow County count, mostly because last year was an exceptionally good year for that count, but also because the shorebird count was atypically low this year as a result of less coverage. The lower number of total birds also resulted in lower than average birds per party hour (67.89 in 2008 compared to 70.52 in 2007 and 70.59 in 2006). In fact, it was the lowest number of birds per party hour since 2003.

Of the total species counted, 21.8% were found in only one count area, 17.5% were found in all count areas, and an additional 11.8% were found in all but one count area. Most of the one-count misses were species missed on the Balsam Mountains count. That high-elevation area lacks wetlands, so waterfowl and shorebirds are rarely found, and it is very heavily forested so even some birds that are quite common in most other areas are missing from this count.

Exclusives are listed with the count details and summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of species exclusive to a count

Mountains		Piedmont		Coastal Plain	
Balsam Mountains	4	Catawba County	1	Onslow County	27
Buncombe County	2	Forsyth County	4		
		Greensboro	1		
		Durham	5		
		Chapel Hill	1		
		Wake County	1		
		Jordan Lake	1		
		Kerr Lake	2		
		Southern Pines	1		

Unusual species included on the count were several late-departing waterfowl including a White-winged Scoter and a Horned Grebe on the Kerr Lake count, Greater Scaup on the Durham count, Lesser Scaup on the Southern Pines count, and American Wigeon and Northern Shoveler on the Onslow County count. The Durham count also included an American Bittern and a Black-crowned Night-Heron, species often missing from the NC count. Another excellent find was a King Rail on the Chapel Hill count. Although some of the shorebirds that normally appear on the Onslow count were missing, other counts picked up some passing shorebirds including Semipalmated Plover on the Buncombe count, Pectoral Sandpiper on the Catawba count, Dunlin on the Jordan Lake count, and Short-billed Dowitcher on the Forsyth count. Unusual neo-tropical migrants included Philadelphia Vireo on the Wake count, Tennessee Warbler on the Greensboro count, Orange-crowned and Nashville Warbler on the Forsyth count, and Wilson's Warbler on the Buncombe count. Other late-departing birds included American Pipit and Rusty Blackbird on the Forsyth count, and Lincoln's Sparrow on the Durham count.

Trends this year include the continued increase in the number of Great Blue Herons with 908, an increase of 156 from last year. Bald Eagle numbers were near what they were in 2007, and the total number of Northern Bobwhites plunged to a meager 36 for the whole state. For some other species of concern, Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were at their highest in several years with a total of 54. High count this year was 12 from the Catawba County count. Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager numbers declined slightly from recent years, and Field Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark numbers held steady.

Details of individual counts, including names of compilers and participants, and count highlights follow:

Count Area Details

Mountains

Transylvania County—count date 3 May, 119 species, 3,437 individuals, 22 participants, 45.00 party-hours.

Weather overcast and cloudy in the morning with light rain, windy most of the day.

Compiler: Norma Siebenheller (sieb@citcom.net)

Participants: Dennis and Kathryn Allen, Marvin and Michele Barg, Kathy Bartt, Dorothy Bauer, Pat Blaine, Dick Blee, Pat Bohan, John Devlin, Ruth and Don Duncan, Elizabeth Galloway, Jeanne Grimmenga, Mike Judd, Ludwig and Louise Kempe, Ruth Klock, Chris and Sally Macmillan, Betty Mellwain, Carolyn and Rick Mills, Norma and Bill Siebenheller, Mary Skogland, Connie Updike, Barbara Williams, Sam Woodruff, Camille Ziegler

Exclusives: none

Notes: Despite heavy winds on the count day, and early rain on the parkway, which hit the lower areas in the afternoon, the 30 participants in the 2008 Transylvania Spring Count managed to come up with one of the highest species totals recorded here—119. Only twice before has this been exceeded (120 once, 123 once). Of course the adverse weather conditions kept the individual numbers low for many species, but overall we were satisfied with our efforts. Some of the more interesting finds were late-lingering species such as Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Bufflehead, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swamp Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow. Large numbers of Pine Siskins remained, fueling hopes that some may stay to breed in the county as they have done in the past. Warbler species were well represented, with Cerulean, Swainson's and Kentucky Warblers found at expected spots. That a few must-have birds were missed—Peregrine Falcon, Veery, American Kestrel, for example—can be blamed on the weather, as we know they are here.

Norma Siebenheller

Great Balsam and Plott Balsam Mountains IBA—count date 17 May, 86 species, 2,946 individuals, 17 participants in 8 parties, 68.00 party-hours.

Weather: Cold and windy in the early morning, 35°F, warmed up quickly when the sun came up and the wind died down, 70°F in afternoon.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@unca.edu)

Participants: Nancy Casey, Tom Flagg, Katie Goodman, Doug Johnston, Gail and Herman Lankford, Tim Lewis, Leigh McDougal, Bob Olthoff, Janie Owens, Ray Sharpton, Andy Shaw, Tom Tribble, Connie Ward, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Stan Wulkowicz.

Exclusives: Peregrine Falcon, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee

Notes: The species total of 86 was the highest in the three-year history of this count, but the total of 2,944 individuals was average. Most birds were seen individually because there are almost no flocks of birds in the area at this time of year. Typically the only flocking birds are Cedar Waxwing, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskins. The area covered is along the Blue Ridge Parkway roughly from the Pisgah Inn to the Smoky Mountains, and also includes the Shining Rock Wilderness. Much of this area is high-elevation and includes mountain balds, deciduous forest, and spruce/fir forest. Thus, the most abundant species are not typically those that are most abundant on other counts. Top ten species were Dark-eyed Junco (405), Chestnut-sided Warbler (330), Eastern Towhee (252), Blue-headed Vireo (195), American Robin (162), Golden-crowned Kinglet (113), Black-throated Green Warbler (93), Black-throated Blue Warbler (84), Ovenbird (84), and Canada Warbler (83). Interesting finds included two Bald Eagles, four Ruffed Grouse (always fun to see), two American Woodcocks still peenting at elevations near 6000 feet, seven Least Flycatchers, 22 Black-capped Chickadees (or at least sounding, looking, and acting like BC Chickadees), an amazing 31 Brown

Creepers, and five Hermit Thrushes—largely in locations where they have been noted as probable breeding birds in the previous two summers, two migrating Bay-breasted Warblers, and 28 Pine Siskins. As usual it was great fun and everyone did a great job.

Marilyn Westphal

Henderson County—count date 10 May, 114 species, 2,916 individuals, 12 participants, 44.70 party-hours.

Compiler: Jim Neal (jlbjNeal@bellsouth.net)

Participants: Jack Drost, Bill Fisk, Mimi Kaufer, Doug Johnston, Richard Leppingwell, Denne Liberaton, Mike McCurdy, Nora Murdock, Suzanne Mwengi, Barbara Neal, Jim Neal, Frances Ogasawara, Janie Owens, Ron Selvey, Linda Stowers, Cora Anne Thomas, Simon Thompson, Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: none

Notes: 18 people worked 10 areas in the county and found 114 species and 2,916 total birds. The 114 species total is in the middle of the range of our 11 years of data, with the lowest being 103 species in 2001 and highest being 120 species in 2006. The 2,916 total birds are the fourth highest ever. The lowest total birds was 2,015 in 1999 when we had 14 people covering 8 areas and the highest was 3,705 in 2002 when we had 18 people covering 10 areas.

Finding the Fish Crow and two Wilson's Snipe in the section known as NC191 Farm Lands were the highlights for the day. While the Fish Crow has been seen and heard in the county with increasing frequency, this was the first time one was found on a Spring Migration Count Day and this was only the second sighting of the snipe. The Yellow-throated Vireo in Jackson Park and the Baltimore Oriole along Lake Osceola and in Fletcher Park were two others not always found. There were six species with more than 100 birds seen. The Cedar Waxwing was tops at 200 followed by the Song Sparrow (129), European Starling (128), American Robin (106), Northern Cardinal (102), and Eastern Towhee (101). Twenty species of warblers were seen, with the American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat and Blackpoll being the most plentiful. We missed a few birds that had been found on one or more previous counts, but overall it was a great day. I want to thank all those who participated for a job well done!

Jim Neal

Buncombe County—count date 11 May, 117 species, 4,055 individuals, 24 participants in 7 parties, 64.50 party-hours.

Weather: Warm, 55–70 °F, windy, mix of sun and clouds, afternoon rain in some locations.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@unca.edu)

Participants: Nancy Casey, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Katie Goodman, Mark Hamlin, Michelle Johnson, Doug Johnston, Gail and Herman Lankford, Andrew Laughlin, Leigh McDougal, Naomi Otterness, Janie Owens, Len Pardue, Kitti Reynolds, Steve Semanchuk, Ray Sharpton,

Andy Shaw, Liz Skiles, Jennifer Stanley, Tom Tribble, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Ruth Young.

Exclusives: Semipalmated Plover, Wilson's Warbler

Notes: Although the total number of species found was on the high side of average, the total number of individuals was low. Much of the day was windy and some groups encountered fog in the morning and rain during part of the afternoon, but the greatest difference in this count from previous counts was the low numbers of species and individuals associated with higher elevations such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, Canada Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue-headed Vireo, Veery, Winter Wren, and Brown Creeper, and the total absence of Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, and Pine Siskin. This low count occurred because the main high-elevation section of the count was inaccessible; the Blue Ridge Parkway was closed beyond mile marker 367. Also, for the first time ever there were no owls counted. But the lack of these species was balanced by several first-time species for this count including American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Whip-poor-will, Wilson's Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, and, most surprisingly, a Caspian Tern at Beaver Lake. Also not often found on the Buncombe County count were Least Sandpiper and Bay-breasted Warbler. Because Beaver Lake had been lowered, creating a large mud flat, it was also a better-than-usual year for shorebirds.

This was the eighth successive count for Buncombe County, and several high counts were attained including Great Blue Heron (6), Canada Goose (119), Mallard (193), Turkey Vulture (52), Cooper's Hawk (3), Broad-winged Hawk (6), Wild Turkey (26), Killdeer (13), Downy Woodpecker (20), Eastern Kingbird (18), House Wren (32), Yellow-throated Vireo (14), Black-and-white Warbler (72), American Redstart (43), and Scarlet Tanager (51). Unusually low counts of Mourning Dove (79), Northern Flicker (8), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (25), American Robin (155), European Starling (90), and House Finch (33) were also recorded.

Marilyn Westphal

Piedmont

Catawba County—count date 10 May, 118 species, 3,140 individuals, 13 participants, 84 party-hours.

Compiler: Lori Owenby (loriowenby@gmail.com)

Participants: Andrea Bruns, Lou Bruns, Linda Gilbert, Dave Hardin, Alisha Hayes, Tim Isenhour, Dwayne Martin, MaryAnn McRee, Lori Owenby, Monroe Pannell, Frank Porch, Blair Rayfield, John Sutton.

Exclusives: Pectoral Sandpiper

Notes: This exceptionally good count brought 118 species, beating our previous high count of 110. Although numbers were low for some species, we had an amazing 23 species of warblers. Winter holdovers included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Purple Finch. We also had some near misses with very disappointing numbers of Wild Turkey (1), Northern Bobwhite (1), Green

Heron (1), American Kestrel (1), Rock Pigeon (1), Barred Owl (1), Whip-poor-will (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Loggerhead Shrike (1), and Fish Crow (1). Baker's Mountain Park continues to be the best spot in the county for variety and numbers of spring migrants. Other hot spots included Shell Hollar Road, Lyle Creek, Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, and Riverbend Park.

Lori Owenby

Forsyth County—count date 3 May, 130 species, 4,715 individuals, 52 participants, 87.75 party-hours.

Compiler: Linda Davis (davisl@mindspring.com)

Participants: Ga Baliga, Steve Barnes, Kin Brand, Tommie Castleman, Peg Cochran, Linda and Larry Davis, Phil Dickinson, David and Susan Disher, Ferenc Domoki, Cynthia Donaldson, Bill Gifford, John Haire, Sven Halling, Bill and Susan Hammond, John and Elaine Hammond, Myrna Harris, Bert Hollifield, Hop Hopkins, Susan Horton, Royce Hough, Bill Jackson, Kitty Jensen, Warren and Susan Jones, Ray Kandt, Barbara and Leon Kendrick, Ellen Kirkman, Norwood Lide, Jim Martin, Ron Morris, Ed and Margaret Mulvey, Lea Nading, Ann Newsome, Janice Ovelman, Paul Powers, Judy and Alex Pozniak, Jeremy Reiskind, Ann and Chester Robertson, Liz Schmid, N. L. Shearouse, Gene Schepker, Lois Schneider, Fran Shelton, Jim Spencer, Pat Stewart, Mike and Marilyn Shuping, Bill Sugg, Chuck and Cindy Thompson,

Exclusives: Short-billed Dowitcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Rusty Blackbird

Notes: Warbling Vireos were sighted at Bethabara Park wetlands on the spring count. Two vireo nests were subsequently discovered on the Civitan Park Greenway (part of Salem Lake Greenway). Short-billed Dowitchers were observed at Archie Elledge Sewage Treatment Plant. This is a rare spring and fall transient, last seen in April and May 1987. A Sora was heard at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons. Another unusual find at Tanglewood Park was a Nashville Warbler. An exciting postscript to the count was the return of Willow Flycatchers to Salem Creek later in May. The banks of the creek had been completely stripped of vegetation several years ago, then allowed to return to a natural vegetated state.

Linda Gibson Davis

Greensboro—count date 5 May, 127 species, 7,466 individuals, 24 participants, 82.25 party-hours.

Compiler: Herb Hendrickson (hhendrickson@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Carolyn Allen, Diane Bowman, Louise Brown, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Judi Durr, Larry Gasper, Herb Hendrickson, Phillip Kellam, Jane Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Lorraine Marshall, Steve Marshall, Gregg Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Sandy Post, Lou Skrabec, Laurie Sorrell, Johnathan Thielen, Emily Tyler, Ann Walter-Fromson, Melissa Whitmire

Exclusives: Tennessee Warbler

Notes: none

Southern Pines—count date 27 April, 127 species, 4,154 individuals, 22 participants, 60.40 party-hours.

Compiler: Susan Campbell (susan@ncaves.com)

Participants: Rex Badgett, Nancy Basinger, Brady Beck, Carol Bowman, Susan Campbell, Jay Carter, Dick Dole, Lois Dole, Scott Hartley, Wayne Irvin, Alicia Jackson, Charlie Jones, Linda Jones, David McCloy, Michael McCloy, Carolyn McDermott, Dan Pieroni, Jessie Schillachi, Patrick Shaffner, Bruce Sorrie, Lowell Strine, Susan Strine

Exclusives: Lesser Scaup

Notes: Despite good weather and a good effort by participants, numbers of individuals and species were not impressive. Migrants were sparse and very few overwintering species remained.

Susan Campbell

Chapel Hill—count date 3 May, 127 species, 9,924 individuals, 54 participants, 147.30 party-hours.

Weather: low 60 °F, high 80 °F; wind SW 10–20 mph; mostly cloudy; no rain.

Compiler: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Participants: Kim Aycrigg, Sam Baron, June Beyman, Audrey Booth, Jane Brinkley, Norm Budnitz, Nicki Cagle, Janet Campbell, Derb Carter, Bob Chase, Will Cook, Anson D. Cooke, Anson R. Cooke, Kyle Dexter, Barbara Driscoll, Tom Driscoll, Kent Fiala, Sue Fletcher, Cynthia Fox, Ted Gilliland, Roger Gorham, Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Sue Greenberg, Perry Haaland, Marcia Hellerman, Loren Hintz, Bo Howes, Alan Johnston, Betty King, Alan Kneidel, Bert Liverance, May Lou Liverance, Max Lundberg, Ken Lundstrom, David Murdock, Judy Murray, Lynn Ogden, Jenny Palmer, Karen Piplani, Bob Rybczynski, Harriet Sato, Chad Schoen, Lois Schultz, Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Judy Teague, Shelley Theye, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Amalie Tuffin, Phil Warren, Ann Wood, Dick Wood

Exclusives: King Rail

Notes: The Chapel Hill spring count on May 3 was quite breezy, which kept numbers down and resulted in an average count. The overall numbers were nearly identical to last year's, with 127 species and 9924 individual birds (last year also 127 species; 10-year average 124 species, 11,276 birds). Party-hours and birds per party-hour were both a little below average, nearly identical to last year's numbers.

Remarkably, three species were new to the count this year: a Common Raven west of Chapel Hill, near the same spot as the ones on the Christmas count, being chased by an American Crow (Jane Brinkley), a heard-only King Rail at Jordan Lake (Lois Schultz), and a pair of feral Mute Swans (the same as on the Christmas count). The Common Raven was being harassed by an American Crow, for a nice comparison. The raven was overdue; they've been seen in the vicinity regularly over the past few years. King Rail isn't too unexpected; they did breed once at Mason Farm, just a few miles away. Hopefully the Mute Swans on this count are truly feral instead of

purchased; feral Mute Swans populations in neighboring Raleigh seem to be established and increasing. Other rarities include Pied-billed Grebe (Bob Chase), Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at the sewer-line heronry near Mike and Lois Schultz's house, Chuck-will's-widow (Norm Budnitz), Red-breasted Nuthatch (Shelley Theye, at her feeder), and Pine Siskin (Cynthia Fox, at her feeder). The nesting Hooded Mergansers at Jordan Lake only made an appearance for count week this year.

We normally set quite a few record highs, but this year there was just one: the 7 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (2 in 1991). The 10–20 mph winds during the count kept numbers for most species down. We had no big misses and set no record lows, but several were at their lowest in many years: Wood Duck (lowest since 1990), Spotted Sandpiper (1990), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1984, just one!), Northern Flicker (1974), Barn Swallow (1973), European Starling (1974), American Redstart (1972), Common Grackle (1974), and House Sparrow (1973).

This year Pam Timmons and Perry Haaland claimed the honor of finding the most species, with 80. They covered the Dairyland Road area west of Chapel Hill. Bob Chase, covering southwestern Durham, came close, with 78, and counted the highest number of individual birds, 833. Thanks to all of our 54 field counters and 14 feeder watchers!

Charles W. "Will" Cook

Jordan Lake—count date 4 May, 121 species, 7,891 individuals, 47 participants, 140.50 party-hours.

Weather: Low 59 °F, high 82 °F; wind 5 mph, partly cloudy.

Compiler: Norm Budnitz (nbudnitz@gmail.com)

Participants: Patsy Bailey, Barbara Beaman, Todd Bishop, Betsy Bogle, Norm Budnitz, Chris Canfield, Bob Chase, Patrick Coin, Will Cook, Anson Cooke, Kate Finlayson, Perry Haaland, Diane Hardy, Russell Herman, Carl and Loren Hintz, Denny Holland, Betty King, Max Lundberg, Jennifer Maher, Phil Manning, Marty McClelland, Melinda Meade, Kyle Mills, Micky Mills, Robin Moran, Judy Murray, Rick Payne, Lisa Pokorny, Deb Reilly, Harriet Sato, Lois and Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Josh Southern, Sterling Southern, Brian Strong, Judy Teague, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Andy Upshaw, Phil Warren, Carol Williamson, Rouse Wilson

Exclusives: Dunlin

Notes: May 4, 2008 was much nicer weather-wise than our recent Christmas count—no soaking rain like we had in December. The temperature ranged from 59 to 82°F, the skies were partly cloudy, and the wind was calm to about 5mph. A pleasant day to be out birding.

Forty-seven observers (10-year average: 52) in 22 parties (10-year average: 23) tallied 7,891 individual birds (average 8,697), 121 species (average 126), during 140 party-hours in the field (average 147).

The rarest bird of the day was a Dunlin, found hanging out on Seaforth Beach by Brian Strong who was also apparently hanging out on the beach about 5–10 feet away! The last time we had Dunlin on our count was in 1986. Other species of note: Jennifer Maher, Robin Moran, and Judy Murray

found 1 Ring-necked Duck and a female Hooded Merganser with 4–6 chicks. Chris Canfield and Kate Finlayson got a Red-breasted Merganser; and Betsy Bogle, Betty King, and Judy Teague found a Pied-billed Grebe.

Marty McClellan, Deb Reilly, and Ginger Travis heard what they thought might have been a King Rail in the beaver impoundment on White Oak Creek. Since they were not familiar with King Rail calls and therefore not entirely comfortable with the ID, Ginger and yours truly revisited the area several days later armed with a canoe and some rail recordings. We were unable to get any direct response to the recordings. We did hear some rail-like sounds, but Norm thinks they were made by frogs (perhaps Squirrel Tree Frog), rather than birds. It was a tough call, but given the uncertainty, we decided not to claim Kings for the count. The canoe ride was glorious, however, and we were treated to Anhingas flying overhead.

We had a few new record high counts: the 5 (or 7) Hooded Mergansers beat out 4 that were seen in 1994, 266 Great Blue Herons eclipsed the 170 recorded last year (a testament to the successful heronries springing up in various beaver impoundments around the lake), and 85 Black Vultures outbid the 53 we had last year (a testament to our growing landfills?).

Some species that were missed this year: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Great Horned Owl all eluded us, likewise, Great Egret and Swamp Sparrow. But we did find 22 species of warblers, so at least some of us were favored by those glorious little gems. Thanks for counting!

Norm Budnitz

Durham—count date 27 April, 129 species, 6,718 individuals, 16 participants, 78.25 party-hours.

Compiler: Mike Schultz (ross.gull@verizon.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Norm Budnitz, Will Cook, Tom Driscoll, Tom Krakauer, Max Lundberg, Jennifer Maher, Brian Murphy, Isabel Reddy, Lynn Richardson, Lois Schultz, Michael Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Deck Stapleton, Edith Tatum, Amalie Tuffin

Exclusives: Greater Scaup, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Pipit, Lincoln's Sparrow

Notes: none

Mike Schultz

Wake County—count date 10 May, 122 species, 3,254 individuals, 29 participants, 53.00 party-hours.

Weather: Beautiful throughout the day, temperatures 60–85°F with light winds and partly cloudy skies.

Compiler: John Connors (John.Connors@ncmail.net)

Participants: Joe Bearden, Karen Bearden, Brian Bockhahn, Pat Bost, Jerome Brewster, Halbert Carmichael, John Connors, Barbara Dixon, Will Fields, Lena Gallitano, John Gerwin, Rachel Hardin, Ann Hicks, Vernon Janke, Will Kimler, Gerry Luginbuhl, Jananne Mathison, Jim Mulholland, Kelsey Obernuetenarr, Bob O'Brien, Clyde Smith, Earl Thomas, Rick Van

Hoy, Abby Venartelli, Mary Waller, Nikki Zidar (plus three who did not register)

Exclusives: Philadelphia Vireo

Notes: Species numbers were comparable to recent years. Some interesting observations include: Great Egret (2) at Lake Wheeler; Little Blue Heron (1) at Schenck Forest; Ruddy Duck (3), Lesser Yellowlegs (1), Greater Yellowlegs (1), and Least Sandpiper (4) at NCSU Dairy Ponds; Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Swainson's Thrush (4), Veery (1), Loggerhead Shrike (4), found at three sites; Philadelphia Vireo (1) observed singing at Yates Mill Pond; 19 species of warblers including Yellow (4), Chestnut-sided (2), Magnolia (2), Cape May (1), Black-throated Blue (4), Prairie (2), Blackpoll (4), Black-and-white (3), and American Redstart (11). The grasslands were teeming with birds this year as a wet spring delayed the harvest of wheat and alfalfa. Dickcissels (2) were discovered by Mulholland earlier in the week and were singing at Mid-Pines Road on count day. Savannah Sparrow (3), Grasshopper Sparrow (5) were also at Mid-Pines, along with White-crowned Sparrow (2) feeding in a mulberry tree. Field Sparrows (6) were found at three sites; Bobolinks (56) were found at Mid-Pines and at Prairie Ridge.

Significant misses include: Hooded Mergansers were not found at Yates Mill Pond; Bobwhites appear to have disappeared from Wake County; Common Nighthawk was not heard in downtown Raleigh; Yellow-throated Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush were not recorded this year.

Cliff Swallows continue nesting in northern Wake County along Neuse River bridges.

Great Blue Heron colonies seem to be thriving, though no active colonies are easily visible along count routes. Green Herons continue to be scarce.

Purple Martin colonies are now established at Prairie Ridge Preserve and at NC Museum of Art, in addition to NCSU University Club with a couple of dozen nests. Anderson Point colony has not re-established.

Meadow habitat at Prairie Ridge and Anderson Point continues to progress; Field Sparrows have begun using both sites, and Eastern Meadowlarks are well established at PR.

Wake Audubon placed a number of Prothonotary Warbler boxes in habitat this spring at count sites; no definitive records yet.

John Connors

Falls Lake—count date 29 April, 115 species, 5,209 individuals, 17 participants, 70.75 party-hours.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn4@earthlink.net)

Participants: Brian and Colleen Bockhahn, Barbara Brooks, Amy Corbally, Ed Corey, Lena Gallitano, David Lenat, Jim Mulholland, Deborah Robertson, Harry Shoffner, Clyde Smith, Sterling Southern, Deck Stapleton, Brian Strong, Amalie Tuffin, Sue Wilson, and Bob Winstead.

Exclusives: none

Notes: The fifth Falls Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 29, 2008 under mostly sunny skies and cool temperatures, 48–64°F. Our second-highest total of 16 observers found our second-best total of 115 species, above our five-year average of 109. We ended up with 5,209 total individuals counted. Wow! That seems low without 30,000 gulls!

Table 2 Falls Lake Spring Counts

Year	Total sp	Total Individuals	Participants
2004	100	1897	7
2005	99	2899	7
2006	112	4083	13
2007	120	5281	19
2008	115	5209	16
Mean	109.2	3873.8	12.4

First records: A well-documented and photographed Common Tern on a buoy at Ledge Rock Boat Ramp; a female Red-breasted Merganser at Highway 50 boat ramp and spillway, which lingered for weeks; an Anhinga circling over Beaverdam Lake (with several seen this spring, already this is the year to search for a nest attempt!); two American Black Ducks at the Rollingview fishing pier.

Second count records: Green Heron at Beaverdam Lake; Herring Gull seen from Sandling swim beach; two parties finding Veery at Blue Jay Point and near the dam; Kentucky Warbler and Northern Waterthrush both singing along Lick Creek.

Misses: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, and both *Accipiters*.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

Kerr Lake—count date 30 April, 129 species, 4,384 individuals, 14 participants, 51.50 party-hours.

Weather: Low 44 °F, high 67 °F; sunny.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn4@earthlink.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Adam D'Onofrio, Bryce and Lori Fleming, Joe Foster, Jerry Klingenberg, David Lenat, Fred Lobdell, Grace McCrowell, Harry and Sandra Shoffner, Tricia Trice, Clyde Smith, and Deck Stapleton

Exclusives: White-winged Scoter, Horned Lark

Notes: The fifth Kerr Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 30, 2008 under mostly sunny skies and cool temperatures, 44–67 °F degrees. We had a record high 14 participants finding a record high 129 species!

Table 3 Kerr Lake Spring Counts

Year	Total sp	Total Individuals	Participants
2004	111	2209	4
2005	117	3671	7
2006	118	3852	9
2007	124	4979	10
2008	129	4384	14
Average	119.8	3819	8.8

New to spring checklist: a pair of Buffleheads and an Eared Grebe coming into breeding plumage at Henderson Point; a Horned Grebe at County Line and a Pied-billed Grebe in the same area for a three-grebe spring count!; White-winged Scoter at Palmer Point, the same adult female that was there on the CBC?; Forster's Tern at North Bend Park; Cape May Warbler singing at Nutbush Campground; Blackburnian Warbler singing at Liberty Hill parking area near the dam; a flock of ten Pine Siskins in some willows at Kimball Point and a single Purple Finch at County Line.

New to spring count: Single Anhinga soaring on thermals over North Bend park and then flying north; Red-breasted Nuthatch pushed out along Liberty Hill nature trail, and a single Gray-cheeked Thrush in Henderson Point area.

Second records: Red-breasted Mergansers from three areas: Kimball Point, Henderson Point, and below the dam; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Eagle Point; Green Heron at Henderson Point; Northern Harrier at North Bend Park and Dick Cross, possibly the same birds; American Kestrel around Palmer Springs (breeding somewhere?); Veery in area 9, and a Worm-eating Warbler at Henderson Point.

Misses: With our total we actually had several misses including Eastern Wood-Pewee, House Wren, Eastern Screech-Owl (that's four of five missed, where are they breeding up here?), Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, and Song Sparrow.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

Raven Rock State Park—count date 26 April, 109 species, 3,033 individuals, 11 participants, 43.50 party-hours.

Weather: Temperature 59–86 °F.; Wind variable, 0–13 mph.; A.M. clear; P.M. partly cloudy.

Compiler: Paul C. Hart (Paul.Hart@ncmail.net)

Participants: Peyton Armstrong, Paul Hart, Tom Howard, Bobby Lutfy, Karin Reese, Kevin Reese, Mitch Reese, Larry Rose, Sarah Stevens, Erik Thomas, Amber Williams.

Exclusives: none

Notes: Participation was lower than average and a low number of transient birds was seen. The migration was in a definite lull on count day.

The spring migration here seemed a bit late this year, as transients were seen on into mid-May (six species of transient warblers were observed on May 13 as opposed to only one transient warbler species seen on count day).

Paul C. Hart

Coast

Onslow County—count date 26 April, 142 species, 6,087 individuals, 22 participants, 53.00 party-hours.

Weather: Mostly sunny with light southerly winds, temperature mid-50s to mid-70s °F.

Compiler: Andy Webb (jwebb3@ec.rr.com)

Participants: Clancy Ballenger, Craig Black, Sam Bland, Rich and Susan Boyd, Megan English, Al Gamache, Chad Garber, Buddy Garrett, Barbara Gould, Gilbert S. Grant, Bob Holmes, Lindsey Jenkins, Jim and Laura O'Donnell Sr., Daniel Payne, Steve Shaffer, Patrick Shaffner, Mark Shields, Dr. Cameron Smith, Bruce Smithson, John Stuebe, Tim Trott, Andy Webb

Exclusives: American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Northern Gannet, Brown Pelican, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Sanderling, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Black Skimmer, Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Boat-tailed Grackle

Notes: This was the thirteenth year for the Onslow County Spring Migration Count and the earliest date it has been held. There were 12 count parties with 22 participants. The total species number was 142, which is down from the average of 151.

New species for the count: On a high note, we had the first ever Eared Grebe, found by Jim and Laura O'Donnell at the waste water treatment plant (the bird had been there over winter), and a Song Sparrow, found by Rich and Susan Boyd in Hoffman Forest.

Some interesting observations include: Five parties recorded White-throated Sparrow, and this is only the fourth year they have been reported. There were a couple of high-count species such as Turkey Vulture and Chuck-will's-widow, but these do not appear to be significantly high.

Significant misses include: Clapper Rail, Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher. One count party did not submit a count list, so our data are incomplete and finalized as such.

Andy Webb

	birds per party hour				total birds	mountains	piedmont	coastal
Pied-billed Grebe	1	5			9	0.00	0.01	0.02
Horned Grebe					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eared Grebe					2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Gannet					11	0.00	0.00	0.21
Brown Pelican					229	0.00	0.00	4.32
Double-crested Cormorant					1933	0.02	2.04	1.81
Anhinga					4	0.00	0.00	0.02
American Bittern					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Great Blue Heron	9				908	0.07	0.99	0.11
Great Egret					17	0.00	0.00	0.23
Snowy Egret					11	0.00	0.00	0.21
Little Blue Heron					2	0.00	0.00	0.04
Tricolored Heron					1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Cattle Egret					9	0.00	0.00	0.17
Green Heron	2				71	0.04	0.06	0.11
Black-crowned Night-Heron					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron					18	0.00	0.02	0.00
White Ibis					1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Glossy Ibis					1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Black Vulture	1				351	0.11	0.36	0.04
Turkey Vulture	44				1064	0.71	0.87	2.38
Osprey					143	0.00	0.14	0.25
Bald Eagle					113	0.01	0.12	0.00
Transylvania	1	5	9	2				
Balsam Mts								
Henderson			1	5				
Buncumbe			6	2				
Catawba		14	19	1				
Forsyth	3	9		9				
Greensboro		35	91	7				
Southern Pines	1	24	12	6				
Chapel Hill	1	290	227	11				
Jordan Lake	1	318	266	6				
Durham		687	114	8				
Wake		45	35	1				
Falls Lake		178	70	1				
Kerr Lake	1	227	49	1				
Raven Rock				5				
Onslow	1			96				

	birds per party hour				total birds	mountains	piedmont	coastal
Northern Harrier	1				4	0.01	0.00	0.00
Sharp-shinned Hawk					8	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cooper's Hawk					38	0.03	0.03	0.00
Accipiter sp.					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	8		178	0.07	0.17	0.15
Broad-winged Hawk	2	9	2		49	0.09	0.03	0.00
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	12		179	0.11	0.17	0.11
Buteo sp.					2	0.00	0.00	0.00
American Kestrel					15	0.00	0.02	0.00
Peregrine Falcon	1				1	0.00	0.00	0.00
King Rail					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sora					2	0.00	0.00	0.02
Common Moorhen					1	0.00	0.00	0.02
American Coot					1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Black-bellied Plover	3		1		17	0.02	0.01	0.08
Wilson's Plover					28	0.00	0.00	0.53
Semipalmated Plover					5	0.00	0.00	0.09
Piping Plover					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Killdeer					3	0.00	0.00	0.06
American Oystercatcher	7		15		52	0.16	0.31	0.98
Black-necked Stilt					2	0.00	0.00	0.04
Spotted Sandpiper	4		5		2	0.00	0.00	0.04
Solitary Sandpiper	1		15		194	0.07	0.19	0.08
Greater Yellowlegs					171	0.08	0.17	0.00
Willet					16	0.00	0.01	0.13
					28	0.00	0.00	0.53
Onslow					1			
Raven Rock					1			
Kerr Lake	2				13			
Falls Lake					13			
Wake					3			
Durham					9			
Jordan Lake					2			
Chapel Hill					1			
Southern Pines					4			
Greensboro					5			
Forsyth					11			
Catawba					10			
Buncumbe					1			
Henderson	1				1			
Balsam Mts					1			
Transylvania	1				1			

	Transylvania	Balsam Mts	Henderson	Buncumbe	Catawba	Forsyth	Greensboro	Southern Pines	Chapel Hill	Jordan Lake	Durham	Wake	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Raven Rock	Onslow	total birds	mountains	piedmont	coastal
birds per party																				
hour																				
Lesser Yellowlegs																	84	0.15	0.04	0.34
Sanderling																	77	0.00	0.00	1.45
Least Sandpiper																	50	0.02	0.02	0.55
Pectoral Sandpiper																	6	0.00	0.01	0.00
Dunlin										1							1	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Calidris</i> sp.																	6	0.00	0.00	0.11
Short-billed Dowitcher																	3	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Limnodromus</i> sp.																	5	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wilson's Snipe																	4	0.01	0.00	0.00
American Woodcock																	3	0.01	0.00	0.00
Laughing Gull																	1368	0.00	0.00	25.81
Bonaparte's Gull																	17	0.00	0.01	0.11
Ring-billed Gull																	1967	0.00	2.03	2.68
Herring Gull																	54	0.00	0.00	0.98
Least Tern																	13	0.00	0.00	0.25
Caspian Tern																	6	0.00	0.01	0.00
Black Tern																	8	0.00	0.00	0.15
Common Tern																	95	0.00	0.00	1.79
Forster's Tern																	11	0.00	0.00	0.21
Royal Tern																	128	0.00	0.00	2.42
Sandwich Tern																	98	0.00	0.00	1.85
Black Skimmer																	13	0.00	0.00	0.25
Rock Pigeon																	391	0.12	0.36	0.85
Eurasian Collared-Dove																	11	0.01	0.01	0.08
Mourning Dove																	2010	1.05	1.76	3.77
Yellow-billed Cuckoo																	31	0.01	0.03	0.02

	birds per party hour				total birds	mountains	piedmont	coastal
Eastern Screech-Owl					15	0.00	0.01	0.09
Great Horned Owl					21	0.01	0.02	0.06
Barred Owl					68	0.02	0.07	0.00
Common Nighthawk					15	0.00	0.02	0.02
Chuck-will's-widow					109	0.00	0.07	0.94
Whip-poor-will					62	0.01	0.06	0.15
Chimney Swift					1294	0.90	1.21	0.17
Ruby-throated								
Hummingbird					238	0.29	0.19	0.04
Belted Kingfisher					102	0.06	0.10	0.06
Red-headed								
Woodpecker					146	0.00	0.15	0.25
Red-bellied								
Woodpecker					931	0.40	0.90	0.58
Yellow-bellied								
Sapsucker					5	0.01	0.00	0.00
Downy Woodpecker					325	0.25	0.29	0.15
Hairy Woodpecker					85	0.11	0.07	0.02
Red-cockaded								
Woodpecker					17	0.00	0.00	0.25
Northern Flicker					165	0.10	0.15	0.21
Pileated Woodpecker					191	0.17	0.15	0.32
Eastern Wood-Pewee					151	0.17	0.10	0.40
Acadian Flycatcher					125	0.07	0.12	0.04
Alder Flycatcher					1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Willow Flycatcher					15	0.07	0.00	0.00
Onslow	5	3	1	50	8	9		
Raven Rock	2	2	3	63	6			
Kerr Lake		3	7	2	5	6		
Falls Lake		6	2	2	3	30		
Wake	1	1	4	2	38			
Durham	1	1	8	2	27			
Jordan Lake	2	11	6	16	55	26	6	
Chapel Hill	1	3	20	1	7	29	9	
Southern Pines	2	1	3	9	38	17	67	
Greensboro		4	2	1	551	15	12	
Forsyth	1	1	2	1	109	16	6	
Catawba		1	2	5	1	12	9	
Buncumbe					64	12	3	
Henderson					58	4	5	
Balsam Mts	1	3		41	12	1		
Transylvania	1	1		32	34	4		

	birds per party hour				total birds	mountains	piedmont	coastal
Black-capped Chickadee	22	3	35	22	22	0.10	0.00	0.00
Poecile sp.	3	3	29	3	3	0.01	0.00	0.00
Tufted Titmouse	5	5	29	1909	1909	1.18	1.77	1.23
Red-breasted Nuthatch	23	11	3	39	39	0.16	0.00	0.00
White-breasted Nuthatch	23	11	3	235	235	0.25	0.20	0.04
Brown-headed Nuthatch	2	31	64	484	484	0.02	0.48	0.94
Brown Creeper	2	31	64	34	34	0.16	0.00	0.00
Carolina Wren	41	2	22	1934	1934	1.18	1.78	1.47
House Wren	41	2	22	219	219	0.40	0.15	0.00
Winter Wren	5	5	22	28	28	0.13	0.00	0.00
Marsh Wren				3	3	0.00	0.00	0.06
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12	113	1	125	125	0.58	0.00	0.00
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	2	6	44	44	0.01	0.05	0.00
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9	6	6	1851	1851	0.33	1.88	1.64
Eastern Bluebird	70	44	44	1507	1507	0.80	1.44	0.72
Veery	79	1	10	111	111	0.42	0.02	0.00
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	3	2	2	2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swainson's Thrush	5	5	1	52	52	0.03	0.05	0.00
Hermit Thrush	21	20	18	6	6	0.03	0.00	0.00
Wood Thrush	171	162	106	488	488	0.44	0.43	0.15
American Robin	29	52	24	2101	2101	2.75	1.66	0.34
Gray Catbird				603	603	0.71	0.48	0.40
Onslow				65	65			
Raven Rock				35	35			
Kerr Lake				99	99			
Falls Lake				147	147			
Wake				97	97			
Durham				182	182			
Jordan Lake				274	274			
Chapel Hill				367	367			
Southern Pines				89	89			
Greensboro				113	113			
Forsyth				127	127			
Catawba				58	58			
Buncumbe				94	94			
Henderson				50	50			
Balsam Mts				22	22			
Transylvania				77	77			

	birds per party hour				total birds				birds per party hour			
	total	mountains	piedmont	coastal	total	mountains	piedmont	coastal	total	mountains	piedmont	coastal
Bay-breasted Warbler					5	0.02	0.00	0.00				
Blackpoll Warbler					53	0.11	0.03	0.00				
Cerulean Warbler					7	0.03	0.00	0.00				
Black-and-white Warbler					316	0.64	0.19	0.08				
American Redstart					214	0.45	0.13	0.00				
Prothonotary Warbler					227	0.00	0.21	0.74				
Worm-eating Warbler					53	0.11	0.01	0.34				
Swainson's Warbler					11	0.00	0.00	0.15				
Ovenbird					903	0.95	0.75	0.36				
Northern Waterthrush					31	0.06	0.02	0.00				
Louisiana Waterthrush					72	0.05	0.07	0.02				
Kentucky Warbler					29	0.01	0.03	0.02				
Common Yellowthroat					774	0.55	0.69	0.58				
Hooded Warbler					356	0.62	0.23	0.23				
Wilson's Warbler					1	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Canada Warbler					117	0.52	0.01	0.00				
Yellow-breasted Chat					310	0.09	0.31	0.26				
Summer Tanager					602	0.00	0.63	0.64				
Scarlet Tanager					309	0.35	0.26	0.00				
Eastern Towhee					1766	2.74	1.24	1.15				
Bachman's Sparrow					9	0.00	0.01	0.08				
Chipping Sparrow					1298	0.45	1.30	0.68				
Field Sparrow					267	0.25	0.24	0.00				
Savannah Sparrow					72	0.01	0.06	0.30				
Grasshopper Sparrow					54	0.01	0.06	0.00				
Onslow					4							
Raven Rock					24							
Kerr Lake					16							
Falls Lake					22							
Wake	4				3							
Durham					9							
Jordan Lake	6				28							
Chapel Hill	3				24							
Southern Pines					23							
Greensboro	2				7							
Forsyth	1	2			11							
Catawba	12				6							
Buncumbe	2	5	6		72							
Henderson	17				46							
Balsam Mts	2	1			49							
Transylvania	1	1			9							

	birds per party hour				total birds	Onslow	Raven Rock	Kerr Lake	Falls Lake	Wake	Durham	Jordan Lake	Chapel Hill	Southern Pines	Greensboro	Forsyth	Catawba	Buncumbe	Henderson	Balsam Mts	Transylvania
	coastal	piedmont	mountains																		
Seaside Sparrow	0.06	0.00	0.00	3	3	3															
<i>Ammodramus</i> sp.	0.11	0.00	0.00	6	6	6															
Song Sparrow	0.02	0.23	2.48	743	743	1	1		1	1	11	1	46	3	83	51	7	199	129	41	168
Lincoln's Sparrow	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	1						1				5			1			1
Swamp Sparrow	0.00	0.00	0.01	27	27		1	3	3	8	6	9	6	1	34	61	1	2	8	1	14
White-throated Sparrow	0.00	0.03	0.12	502	502	18	35	62	36		127		32	54							
White-crowned Sparrow	0.34	0.51								2											
Sparrow	0.00	0.00	0.00	3	3													32	3	405	18
Dark-eyed Junco	0.00	0.00	0.00	458	458							12									
sparrow sp.	0.00	0.01	0.00	12	12																
Northern Cardinal	0.00	0.01	0.00	3536	3536	176	117	136	202	192	328	317	666	297	341	227	128	152	102	11	144
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3.32	3.28	1.89												6	7	19	30	4	47	12
Blue Grosbeak	0.00	0.06	0.43	149	149			1	4	2		3	12	2	14	9	10	4	4		4
Indigo Bunting	0.43	0.29	0.04	294	294	23	20	20	11	23	34	54	37	31	88	57	62	100	86	41	42
Painted Bunting	0.28	0.97	0.43	1161	1161	15	31	48	23	44	149	169	162	36							
Bobolink	0.00	0.00	0.00	15	15										3			48	55		18
Red-winged Blackbird	0.02	0.15	0.56	253	253	1	7			51		18	2	50	68	52	11	85	60		192
Eastern Meadowlark	3.19	0.59	1.56	1039	1039	169	39	50	11	28	68	49	86	71	19	12	33	11	22		28
Rusty Blackbird	0.55	0.26	0.28	325	325	29	24	28	1	14	26	14	12	52	12	12					
Common Grackle	0.00	0.01	0.00	12	12										364	329	267	69	96		107
Boat-tailed Grackle	3.09	2.50	1.26	2687	2687	164	229	114	79	110	184	220	243	112							
Brown-headed Cowbird	1.34	0.00	0.00	71	71										96	87	43	23	23	1	21
Blackbird sp.	0.91	0.96	0.31	982	982	48	33	56	62	40	121	112	165	51							
Orchard Oriole	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	2							2						9	12		2
Baltimore Oriole	0.64	0.23	0.11	260	260	34	17	24	2	13	18	34	14	42	13	18	4	11	2		1
	0.05	0.06	0.06	56	56					1	2	1	6		10						

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Possible Case of Weather-mediated Mortality of Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva pallida*) Wintering in South Carolina

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The Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) has become a regular fall and early-winter vagrant to the Atlantic coast from South Carolina to Rhode Island during the past two decades (Curry and McLaughlin 2000, McNair and Post 2001, Brinkley 2002, Post 2008). The increase in sightings is probably linked to the recent colonization of southern Florida by the Caribbean race (*Petrochelidon f. fulva*) and especially to the rapid expansion of the breeding range of the southwestern race (*Petrochelidon f. pallida*) in Texas (West 1995). The occurrence of both subspecies in the eastern United States has been confirmed by specimens (McNair and Post 1999, Curry and McLaughlin 2000, Lee et al. 2001, McNair and Post 2001, Post 2008). Five specimens of *Petrochelidon f. pallida* have been salvaged or collected in the Carolinas. McNair and Post (1999) salvaged an emaciated individual at Folly Beach, Charleston County, South Carolina on 31 October 1993. An adult male was salvaged at Ft. Macon, Carteret County, North Carolina on 2 December 1999 (Lee et al. 2001). Post (2008) reported three additional specimens from South Carolina, an emaciated juvenile found dead on 18 December 2004 at McClellanville, Charleston County, and two juveniles collected on 20 February 2006 near North Litchfield Beach, Georgetown County. The latter juveniles had heavy fat deposits and were actively molting, indicating that the food supply was sufficient. The occurrence of a flock of up to 50 Cave Swallows in Georgetown County from November 2005 through February 2006 (Post 2008) may herald an incipient wintering population in coastal South Carolina. Here I report an observation that

suggests that wintering Cave Swallows along the Atlantic coast may experience strong natural selection from freezing weather and high winds.

On 2 January 2008 (1650 hr), about 30 minutes before sunset, a swallow abruptly appeared at the western end of the parking lot facing the fishing pier at Myrtle Beach State Park, Horry County. I was surprised to see a swallow so late in the day given the current temperature (1.7 °C) and biting winds (22 km/hr with gusts to 39 km/hr). The swallow made low tight circles over a brackish ditch draining onto the beach and darted briefly into a culvert, permitting a brief glimpse of its broad wings, square tail and contrasting rump. However, I was unable to get a good look at the swallow's head pattern in the fading light. After a few more passes over the narrow ditch, the swallow circled high over the adjacent live oaks and then flew southwest over the frontage road paralleling the beach, finally disappearing from sight.

Thinking that the swallow may have flown to a roost site, I began checking buildings and pavilions along the flight path. I soon (1710 hr) flushed what was presumably the same swallow from a semi-enclosed picnic pavilion (33° 38.855' N; 78° 55.873' W), about 220 m from the initial sighting. The swallow returned to the pavilion in about three minutes and perched high on a diagonal cross beam of an interior wall. By that time, it was nearly dark. I took a series of flash digital photographs of the perched swallow (Fig. 1, upper panel) with a Canon Powershot A570 camera (7.1 megapixels) and then quietly withdrew.

Winds were westerly for 36 hours preceding the sighting on 2 January (maximum wind during the period, 29 km/hr with gusts to 53 km/hr). Temperature reached a low of -4.4 °C that night. When I returned at 0755 hr on the morning of 3 January 2008, the visibly shivering swallow was perched in the same position on the cross beam with its head tucked into its back feathers (Fig. 1, lower panel). The swallow departed the pavilion sometime before I returned to check on it at 1000 hr. I suspect the swallow succumbed to hypothermia and starvation soon after leaving the roost because it did not return to the pavilion or any other open-sided structure in the park on three subsequent evenings (3–5 January 2008). Daytime temperatures on 3 January never exceeded 2 °C and the low temperature during the night of 3–4 January was -8.3 °C. The combination of low temperature and high winds scrubbed the air of flying insects on 2–3 January—I observed none during 12 hours of field observation on those days. A close examination of the roost site revealed a single fecal splat composed almost exclusively of white urates, indicating that the swallow had consumed few or no insects during the hours before roosting on 2 January. Although these isolated observations should not be accorded undue significance, they do raise the possibility that mortality rates of wintering Cave Swallows may be high during prolonged periods of high winds and freezing nights.

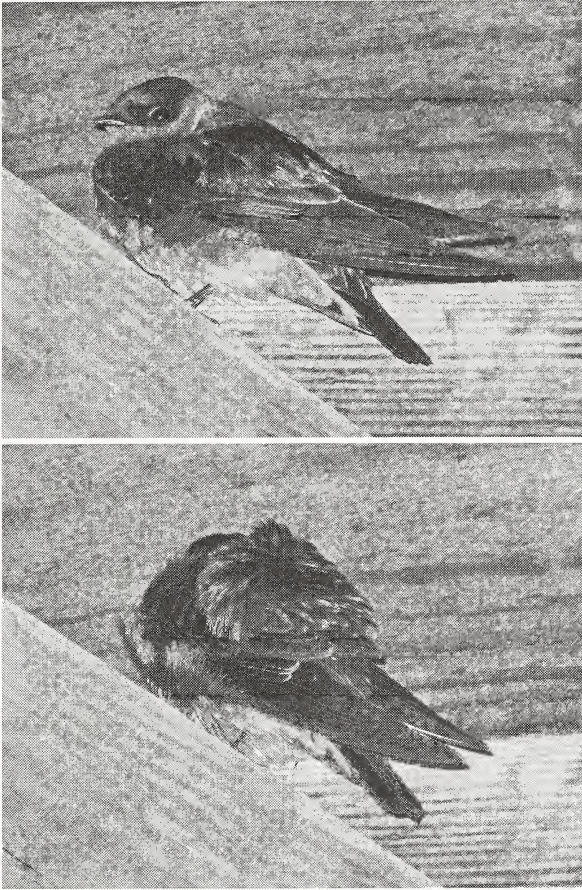


Figure 1. Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon f. pallida*) at roost in Myrtle Beach State Park, Horry County, South Carolina, on 2–3 January 2008.

I compared the photographs of the Myrtle Beach swallow with specimen series of Cave Swallow and Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. The swallow, which differed from all subspecies of the Cliff Swallow in having a chestnut frontal patch and buffy auriculars and throat, was indistinguishable from typical individuals of the southwestern subspecies of the Cave Swallow, *P. f. pallida*. In particular, the flanks were softly streaked with gray as in *P. f. pallida*, rather than with tawny or cinnamonaceous markings typical of the Caribbean race, *P. f. fulva*. The narrow whitish (rather than buffy) margins of the tertials suggest the swallow was an adult in basic plumage (Pyle 1997).

Acknowledgments.

I thank Steve Cardiff (Louisiana State University) and Mark Robbins (University of Kansas) for providing independent opinions on the racial identity of the swallow, Will Post for sharing his manuscript, and Donna Slyce for providing data.

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Cerulean Warbler Fledglings Observed in North Carolina

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In the spring of 1980, Mars Hill College professor Alan Smith (pers. comm. 2002) discovered about 20 singing Cerulean Warblers along the Blue Ridge Parkway several miles north of Asheville in Buncombe County. The first note concerning this colony appeared in Briefs for the Files in 1984: "Perhaps on the breeding grounds was one [Cerulean Warbler] at Bull Creek Valley Overlook, northeast of Asheville, N.C., on 13 May, as noted by Ruth and Jerry Young. It, or another bird, was also there last year. The 3500-foot elevation is much higher than other breeding-season locations in the state" (LeGrand, 1984). Since then, the area from Craven Gap (MP 377.3) to the vista just north of Bull Creek Valley Overlook (MP 373.6) has become known as the most reliable place in western North Carolina to find Cerulean Warblers.

In 1998 I started surveying this same section of the parkway for the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project (CEWAP) run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (Rosenberg et al. 2000). I made a concerted effort to find fledglings in 2002, and managed to locate six family groups with at least eight total fledglings.

On 18 June 2002, around milepost 373.5, as I was walking north along the parkway, I became aware of chipping ahead of me and observed to my left a female Cerulean Warbler with a food item in her bill. The female was just a few feet uphill from the road, and moving north parallel to it. I kept walking north, attempting to locate the chipping, when a male Cerulean Warbler appeared about 20 feet uphill from the road approximately 75 feet north of where I had observed the female. The male was also carrying food in his bill, and was only two feet above the ground when first found. I watched the male make three trips to this spot, each time with a food item. During this time, I worked my way up the bank toward the spot where I presumed the male was feeding a fledgling. I then saw the male fly in with an unidentified long-winged insect. The male was obviously disturbed by my presence and hopped back and forth chipping loudly. Eventually the bird dived down into the vegetation, ceased chipping, and then emerged, chipping loudly when flying off. The chipping of the presumed fledgling had ceased.

This activity allowed me to pinpoint the location of the fledgling, but I still could not see it. I cautiously moved toward the spot, and was only three feet away from the fledgling when I finally found it. The fledgling looked very small, and was sitting on a cup of dead leaves, partially sheltered by a dead log behind it. The fledgling tried to raise itself up a few times, but apparently did not yet have the strength to lift itself completely to a standing

position, so it gave the impression of doing a few deep knee bends. While I was making my way up to the fledgling, I heard the male singing occasionally from farther north. This male obviously was tending this fledgling. I never saw the female again.

After returning to the road, I heard more chipping coming from a different location about 20 feet south of the first fledgling. As I attempted to locate the source of that chipping, I took a few steps uphill from the road, and then stopped to listen again. Suddenly what looked like a small white cotton fluffball fell through the air directly in front of me and into the poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) that covered the ground at my feet. I immediately reached down and moved the vegetation with my hand, looking for it. The bird started to chip, and I caught sight of it. Above, it was the grayish-blue aqua-green color unique to Cerulean Warbler. The fledgling was making short hops about one inch long, moving uphill and away from the road and me.

Neither of the two fledglings I observed could have been capable of sustained flight, and probably were incapable of any form of flight. Although the second observed fledgling seemed to have fallen from the branches of a sapling over my head, the nest from which the two fledglings came must have been in one of three taller trees behind the sapling, a black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), a hickory (*Carya* sp.), or an oak (*Quercus* sp.). I looked for the nest, but the foliage was so thick that I could not locate it. During the hour and twenty minutes I spent in this area, the male seemed to remain north of where I had spotted the female.

The next day, 19 June 2002, I heard chip notes at the same location, and observed the male Cerulean Warbler repeatedly diving down to the ground with food. He was apparently feeding one or more fledglings at this spot and up to 30 feet east of it. On 22 June at this spot and within 50 feet west of it I heard chip notes and a Cerulean Warbler singing, but did not see any adults or juveniles.

The first documented nest of a Cerulean Warbler in North Carolina was found by Simon Thompson in the former Chimney Rock Park in Rutherford County on 17 June 1990 (Thompson 1995). On 30 June 1990 Thompson observed three juveniles in the nest, and watched the female feeding them. The second Cerulean Warbler nest documented was found by Ricky Davis in the colony area I have been surveying, when Davis observed a female on her nest on 7 May 1993 (Davis 1994). Most recently, Thompson and the late Larry Farer discovered an active Cerulean Warbler nest in Chimney Rock Park on 26 May 2002 (pers. comm. 2002). On 14 June 2002, the adults were re-sighted, but the nest was no longer active.

Unfortunately, no one observed any fledglings leaving these nests. To my knowledge, my observation on 18 June 2002 is the first documentation for North Carolina of a Cerulean Warbler fledgling that has just left the nest.

Acknowledgements

Marshall Brooks and Mark Johns reviewed the manuscript, and Johns provided substantial editorial improvements.

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First North Carolina Record of Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

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At mid-day on 15 March 2003, while scanning the ocean from the dunes at the old lighthouse location at Cape Hatteras, Dare County, NC, Davis, LeGrand, and Derb Carter discovered a Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). Davis, who first observed the grebe in his spotting scope, initially thought it was a Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*), which had been reported over a dozen times previously in the state (Avendex database, Redshank Software, Wake Forest, NC). On a second look, he suggested the bird was a Clark's Grebe, which had never before been reported in the state, based on the bright bill color and paleness around the eye. LeGrand and Carter quickly found the bird with their scopes and agreed with Davis's identification.

We watched the bird closely for several hours as it swam, dived, and slept in the same general area in the surf, just outside the groins and breakers. A few minutes after the initial observation, Carter took video through a scope. We called Wayne Irvin and Brad Carlson, who were also birding in the area, and they arrived to see the grebe about 30 minutes later. The bird was observed through several scopes with 20–60x zooms, at a distance of about 150 yards. The observers were looking down on the bird from the dune line, which gave excellent viewing angles. Lighting conditions were good, with high thin overcast and no heat-wave distortion.

The bird was much larger than nearby Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*), and about the same size as nearby Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*). The neck was very long and slender, almost as long as the body. The breast, front, and sides of the neck were a clean white; the back, wings, and flanks gray. The flanks were much paler than the back and rump. The top of the head, nape, and the back of the neck were blackish to dark gray, with this color noticeably darker than the gray of the back. This color separation was very obvious when viewing the bird from the back when it was facing away. The dark area on the back of the neck was very clean along the edges and was confined to a stripe down the center. When the bird turned its head and neck, the white sides tended to make this dark stripe appear very narrow along the upper portions of the neck.

The area behind, below, and in front of the bright red eye was mostly white. Between the eye and the dark of the cap was a grayish area, typical of basic plumage. The dark cap extended from the back of the head over the eye to the forehead near the bill as a dark arc, not in a straight line. The bill was quite long, thin, and pointed, with the lower mandible angled upward, giving

the bill an upturned appearance, suggesting a female. The forehead was quite steep, further accentuating the upturned look of the bill. The bill was a bright yellowish-orange with no gray or greenish areas. The bird did not fly during our observations, so the open wings were not seen.

The grebe was not relocated at the site over the next few days. However, Russ Tyndall, Patricia Tyndall, and Jeff Lewis observed a Clark's Grebe, presumably the same bird, about 10 miles to the southwest in the surf near Hatteras village, on 19 March (Davis 2003).

The five original observers are quite familiar with Western Grebes and Clark's Grebes in the western United States and had previously seen several Western Grebes in North Carolina. This individual stood out quite readily as a Clark's to all observers on 15 March. The possibility of this bird being a hybrid Western/Clark's is discounted due to the whiteness around the eye and the yellow-orange bill color with no apparent darker areas that would give the bill a more greenish, less bright cast.

The three previous East Coast reports of Clark's Grebe are all from Virginia: Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, 11 February 2000; Fort Story, Virginia Beach area, 18 and 31 December 2001; and in the Fort Story area again 30 December 2002 to 1 January 2003 (Iliff 2003). The last bird was videotaped, thereby constituting the first documentation for the East Coast (Iliff 2003). It is possible that all of these sightings, plus the one in North Carolina, were of the same individual.

The Hatteras Clark's Grebe is the first report from North Carolina. The North Carolina Bird Records Committee accepted the written description of the bird provided by Davis; however, the committee did not accept still photos from Carter's video, "as the photos were not definitive enough for Committee members to rule out the similar Western Grebe or a possible hybrid" (LeGrand et al. 2004). Thus, Clark's Grebe has been placed on the Provisional List, but not the Official List for the state. We expect that the committee will review the video in the future, as this photographic material is more detailed or clearer than a still photo from the video.

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Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—September 1958

An article, *Evening Grosbeaks Fly South Again*, by B. R. Chamberlain described flights since 1952. In the winter of 1951–1952 the flight was mainly from January through early May and reached Greenville, SC. Another extensive flight began in November 1954, and there was another in the next winter, with birds reaching within nine miles of Charleston. The 1957–1958 flight was “the most extensive yet to be recorded”, extending from the end of October through the middle of May, and with birds reported in nearly all parts of the Carolinas. Chamberlain suggested that the explanation for four good flights in seven winters was that many of the birds did not return fully to their usual summer range.

The spring 1958 meeting was held at Cashiers, NC with approximately 160 members attending. The Saturday field trips tallied 88 species, surprisingly few by modern expectations, but the editor noted, “High Hampton is one of the finest areas CBC has ever chosen for a field trip”.

Only nine areas reported 1958 spring counts. A few species, notably Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Bluebird, had much lower numbers than in 1957, perhaps due to severe weather of the previous winter. Three of the counts reported Evening Grosbeaks.

In General Field Notes, names from the Fifth Edition of the AOU Checklist of North American Birds became standard for the first time. The editor noted the need to begin using such unfamiliar names as Whimbrel, Dunlin, and Rufous-sided Towhee, but noted that “comfort should be found in the belief that we are through with changes for some years to come.”

Ernest Cutts reported that there had been about 20 breeding pairs of Cattle Egrets on Drum Island in Charleston harbor in 1958. One nest with eggs and one bird were collected for the Charleston Museum, establishing the first official record of nesting in the state. The first record of the species in the state was in 1954.

In North Carolina, a Cattle Egret was found by Jeannette Bachman in Henderson, Vance Co. on 28 April 1958. It remained through 3 May and was recorded on the spring count.

Roy Brown reported a sighting of two Peregrine Falcons on Whiteside Mountain, near Highlands, Jackson Co., NC on 27 June 1958. Summer observations in the mountains were considered rare at the time.

Ernest Cutts reported that the use of traffic lights for nesting by Purple Martins seemed to be on the increase in Charleston. Martins seemed to prefer the red (top) light. The cover photo showed a Purple Martin nesting in the protruding shade of a traffic light. The shade is a complete cylinder, unlike modern shades which are open at the bottom.

Charles H. Blake reported picking up 10 dead birds at the WUNC-TV tower in Chatham Co., NC after the overcast night of 11 May 1958. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was noted without further comment as “probably *bicknelli*”). — Kent Fiala, editor

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2008, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The wintering flock of 16+ at Alligator River NWR, NC was last reported 1 March (John Haire and Royce Hough, Jeff Lewis).

ROSS'S GOOSE: One was locally unusual south of Charleston, SC 13 March (Bill Dobbins, *fide* Nate Dias).

MUTE SWAN: Interesting were the seven Mute Swans at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 30 April–20 May (Steve Calver). These birds were rather skittish and probably were “wild” birds and not local escapes.

TUNDRA SWAN: Locally unusual in the western parts of the Carolinas, Tundra Swans were noteworthy at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, NC 2 March (Ann & Chester Robertson) and Randleman Lake, Randolph County, NC 3 March (Dennis Burnette). Three at the Creswell, Washington County, NC catfish ponds 13 April were somewhat late (Ricky Davis).

RING-NECKED DUCK: A male Ring-necked was apparently attempting to spend the summer at L. Warren St. Pk., Hampton County, SC from 10 May on, as noted by Carroll Richard and Kathleen O’Grady.

COMMON EIDER: The Ft. Macon, NC area hosted several this past winter and they continued on into the spring. One immature was there 4 March (Randy Newman), two immatures were there 15 April (Al Gamache, Steve Shaffer), and one was still present 27 April (John Fussell et al.).

SURF SCOTER: Two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 29 March (Bob Olthoff et al.) provided a rare spring occurrence for the mountains.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Noteworthy inland spring reports of this species included one at the Broad River Canal, Columbia, SC 2 March–17 April (John Grego, Jason Giovannone) and two at L. Tillery, Stanly County, NC from late February until at least 3 March (*fide* Ron Clark).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: A female at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 7 April (Ricky Davis) provided a locally rare spring report for this species.

HOODED MERGANSER: Hooded Mergansers nest throughout the Carolinas in a quite localized fashion, thus spring sightings are worth mentioning. A female with 4+ young was at Jordan L., NC 4 May (Judy Murray et al.), a female was on the Haw River at Bynum, Chatham County, NC 21 May (Jacob Socolar), a juvenile was in a pond northwest of Siler City, NC 24 May (Tom Driscoll, Marsha Stephens), and two females were noted near Weldon on the Roanoke River, NC 30 May (Frank & Elisa Enders).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: The best counts of inland spring migrants included 60 on Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 8 April (Phil Dickinson, Royce Hough), 20+ on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 18 March (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and 17 on upper L. Murray, Newberry/Saluda Counties, SC 4 April (Jason Giovannone).

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one inland Red-throated was mentioned this spring, that being on L. Norman, NC 5 March (David Wright, Jeff Lemons).

PACIFIC LOON: One in transitional plumage was at Figure Eight Island, NC 19 April (Derb Carter), in an area where they are regularly found during winter.

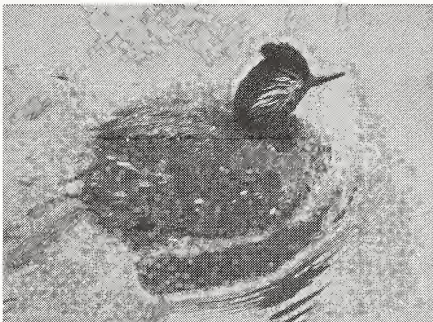
COMMON LOON: A flock of 32 Common Loons in alternate plumage must have been an interesting sight at L. Julian, NC 29 March, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey. At the coast, 50+ in basic plumage were in

the ocean just off Frisco, NC 26 May (Ricky Davis), most certainly lingering non-breeders.

HORNED GREBE: Late Horned Grebes included singles at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Raleigh, NC 30 April (Jeff Beane) and at Dewees Island, Charleston County, SC 4 May (Ed Blitch et al.).

RED-NECKED GREBE: Spring reports of this rare winter visitor included the wintering individual at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC that remained until at least 10 March (Steve Shultz). Another one was found at the southern end of Onslow Beach, NC 13 March (Greg Massey et al.).

EARED GREBE: Very rare and unexpected for the mountains were two in alternate plumage at L. Junaluska, NC 29 March (Connie Ward and Stan Wulkowicz; Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey). Also one was a good find at Henderson Point, Kerr Lake, NC 30 April (Brian Bockhahn).



FEA'S PETREL: This spring's sightings offshore included one off Hatteras, NC 17 May and an impressive count of at least four off Hatteras 20 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

Eared Grebe, 29 Mar 2008, L. Junaluska, NC. Photo by Connie Ward and Stan Wulkowicz

BERMUDA PETREL: This species has become regular off North Carolina in spring, and this year's sightings of single birds were off Hatteras 21 May, off Oregon Inlet 24 May, and off Hatteras 28 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: The best onshore count received was of the 50 from Frisco, NC 26 May, as noted by Ricky Davis.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL: This species was found off North Carolina again this spring (fourth year in a row!), with singles being noted off Hatteras 18 and 20 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MASKED BOOBY: Rare spring sightings of this species involved one off Hatteras, NC 22 May and two different individuals off Oregon Inlet, NC 24 and 26 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Locally unusual were one at New Bern, NC 6 March (Olwen Jarvis) and three over Camp Lejeune, Onslow County, NC 19 March (Jamie Cameron).

ANHINGA: This species continues to be found farther inland in numbers. Noteworthy was one at L. Conestee, Greenville, SC 26 April (Paul Serridge et al.). Good numbers were had at Falls Lake, NC, with seven at the Beaverdam area 9 and 12 April, and 15 at the Brickhouse Rd. area 7 May (Brian Bockhahn).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Locally unusual were two at L. Conestee, Greenville, SC 26 April (Paul Serridge et al.), one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 30 March (Joe Wheelan) and 6 April (Alan Kneidel), singles in the

French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 3–18 April (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) and 3 May (Westphal et al.), and one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP wetlands 12 April–8 May (Eric Dean).

GREAT “WHITE” HERON:

One was along the East Fork of the French Broad River, Transylvania County, NC during April (Norma Siebenheller et al.). Amazingly this form of the Great Blue Heron has been found in this mountain county twice before (2000, 2005).

SNOWY EGRET: Noteworthy westerly Snowy Egrets included one at L. Conestee, Greenville, SC 9 April (Paul Serridge) and two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 12 April (Bob Olthoff et al.).

REDDISH EGRET: This spring’s Reddish Egret reports involved singles at Bulls Is., Cape Romain NWR, SC 4 May (*fide* Andy Harrison) and at Sullivan’s Is., SC 28 May (Nona Valiunas).

CATTLE EGRET: The best count for inland reports was the five at Mid-Pines Rd., Wake County, NC 20 April (Steve Shultz). The farthest west was one north of Greensboro, NC 26 April (Dennis Burnette).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:

Several Black-crowns were noted far to the west this spring, with one at L. Conestee, SC 8 April (Paul Serridge), one at L. Junaluska, NC 12 April (Bob Olthoff et al.), one in Charlotte, NC 12 April (Carole Jorgensen), and one at Meat Camp, Watauga County, NC 9 May (Jack Ogburn, *fide* Curtis Smalling).

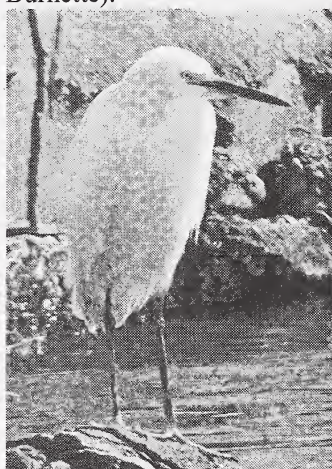
WHITE IBIS: One at Woodlake, Moore County, NC 13 March (Susan Campbell) was locally unusual for the spring season.

GLOSSY IBIS: Rare inland in spring were two Glossies at the Goldsboro, NC WTP wetlands 6–8 May, as noted by Eric Dean.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This season’s Roseate Spoonbill reports included one at Hilton Head Is., SC 28 April (*fide* Jack Colcolough), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 30 April



American Bittern, 11 Apr 2008, Henderson Co., NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe



Snowy Egret, 12 Apr 2008, L. Junaluska, NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe

(Steve Calver), and one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 1 May (*vide* Sharon Turner).

WOOD STORK: North Carolina's only known Wood Stork breeding colony in Columbus County is apparently doing well, as the number of nests increased to 149 this year (David Allen, Sue Cameron). Also, five seen high over Lennon's Pond, Robeson County, NC 22 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) were of interest, as there is some speculation that a second nesting colony could be present in or near that county.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: The earliest spring reports involved one flying north along the Intracoastal Waterway near Wilmington, NC 12 March (Mark Jones et al., *vide* Bruce Smithson) and one in Horry County, SC 18 March (Sharon Turner). The summering Swallow-taileds along the Cape Fear River, Bladen/Columbus Counties, NC returned as early as 6 May when four were noted by J. D. Davis. Other NC spring sightings included singles at Brunswick Town, Brunswick County 12 April (John Ennis et al.), at Bodie Island 10 April (Todd Koym), at Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender County 19 April (Derb Carter), flying north at Avon 8 May (Jerry Talkington), and at Howell Woods, Johnston County 13 May (James Sasser). Two were also



Swallow-tailed Kite, 12 Apr 2008, Brunswick Co., NC. Photo by John Ennis.

noted at Ocracoke Island, NC 7 May (Becky Marvil).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was very early in Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 21 March (Nate Dias). Locally unusual spring reports included one at Ocracoke, NC 29 April (John Fussell, Janice Allen), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 18 May (Fussell), and one in the mountains at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 16 May (Stan Wulkowicz, *vide* John Lindfors).

NORTHERN HARRIER: Several Harriers lingered in the Carolinas this spring. Singles were noted at the Futch Game Land, Tyrrell County, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis), at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 May (Steve Calver), and at the Tidewater Res. Sta., Roper, NC 30 May (Don Rote).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: One at Brunswick Town, Brunswick County, NC 12 April (John Ennis et al.) was most likely a spring migrant, although there are a handful of nesting pairs in the nearby Green Swamp area of that county.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Only one was reported this spring, that being an immature near Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, NC 26 March (Geoff White).

AMERICAN KESTREL: One was rather late at the Futch Game Land, Tyrrell County, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis), as this species is not known to nest there.

MERLIN: Noteworthy late migrants were observed at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County, SC 15 May (Stephen Thomas) and along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 16 May (John Buckman).

PEREGRINE FALCON: One at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 13 April (Alan Kneidel) was a locally good find for spring, while three were rather late along the coast in Charleston County, SC 4 May (*fide* Andy Harrison).

BLACK RAIL: This spring's reports involved one in flight at Bear Is. WMA, SC 14 April (Buddy Campbell), one seen at Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County, SC 1 May (Nate Dias), and five heard at the usual Roanoke Is., NC marshes 25 May (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis).

SORA: Locally interesting sightings included one at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth County, NC 3 May until the early summer (David Disher et al.) and one along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 4 April and 4 May (Marilyn Westphal et al.).

PURPLE GALLINULE: One was found at Fort Macon St. Pk., NC 10–15 April (Randy Newman, sev. obs.) for a most unusual report. Of interest was that the bird was often seen feeding along the roadside shoulder.

SANDHILL CRANE: The flock of 10 Sandhills from the winter season near Hobgood, Halifax County, NC was last noted 3 March (Ricky Davis). Other reports for the season included singles at Cedar Mt., Madison County, NC 13 March (Kevin Caldwell) and on Bulls Is., Cape Romain NWR, SC 28 March (*fide* Jack Colcolough).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: There was a handful of American Golden-Plovers reported from the coast this spring, a rather unusual event. Three were at Bear Is. WMA, SC 14 April (Chris Feeney, Steve Compton, Buddy Campbell), one was at Cat Is., Georgetown County, SC 26 April (Nate Dias), one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 30 April (Steve Calver), and one was at Pea Is. NWR, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One was a rather early migrant at Eastwood, James Is., SC 9 March, as noted by Dennis Forsythe.

AMERICAN AVOCET: One was locally unusual at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC 7 March, as noted by Tim Lewis.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: This species is a fairly common spring migrant throughout the Carolinas, usually in small numbers. Thus a count of 57 at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 4 May (David Disher et al.) was most impressive.

WILLET: One at a field in Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC 9 May (Tom Joyce) provided a very rare mountain sighting for this species.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Noteworthy inland Westerns included one at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC 7 May (Brian Bockhahn), three in the French

Broad River valley, Henderson County, NC 22 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and one at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 25 May (Steve Shultz).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: A Baird's Sandpiper was a very good find at Cat Is., Georgetown County, SC 26 April (Nate Dias). This species' normal spring migration route is through the central and western part of the country, and it is not normally found in the Carolinas at that season.

DUNLIN: Inland spring sightings involved four at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids L., NC 19 April (Ricky Davis), one at the Bog Garden, Greensboro, NC 25–27 April (Henry Link, Melissa Whitmire), one at Seaforth, Jordan L., NC 4 May (Brian Strong), and one at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 30 May (John Haire).

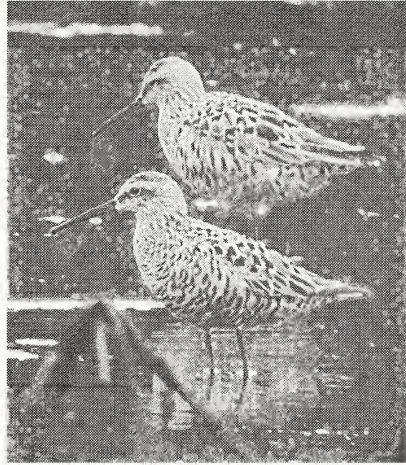
STILT SANDPIPER: Four in the French Broad River valley, Henderson County, NC 18 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) were the only ones mentioned from an inland site this spring.

RUFF: South-coastal South Carolina experienced another rash of Ruff reports this spring, thereby solidifying the area's reputation as the best for finding the species in the Carolinas. A female was at a marsh wetland along US 17 in Jasper County 6–8 April (Nate Dias), a male was at the Nemours Wildlife Foundation, Yemassee 7–9 April (Gretchen Nareff), and another male was at Bear Is. WMA 12 April (Dias). In North Carolina one was a good find at C. Hatteras 29 May (Marshall Iliff).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Noteworthy inland migrants included five at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 3 March (Vin Stanton) and five at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 3 May (David Disher et al.).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Interesting spring sightings of Woodcock involved one displaying in eastern Edgecombe County, NC 26 April (Ricky Davis), one in Croatan Nat. For., NC 1 May (John Fussell), one flushed from ground at the north end of Roanoke Is., NC 16 May (Jeff Lewis), and two along the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Balsam Mts., NC 17 May (Marilyn Westphal). This species is a very localized breeder in the Carolinas and all of these reports probably concerned nesting birds.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The only reports this spring were of one at New Field, Pea Is. NWR, NC 18 May (Derb Carter) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 20 May (Steve Calver).



Stilt Sandpipers, 18 May 2008,
Henderson Co., NC. Photo by Wayne
Forsythe

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: A rare onshore spring report was provided by a male at New Field, Pea Is. NWR, NC 18–20 May (Derb Carter; Marshall Iliff).

LAUGHING GULL: Inland Laughing Gull reports involved singles at Scotland Neck, NC 3 April (Merrill Lynch), at Dreher Is. St. Pk., SC 4 April (Jason Giovannone), at the Blewett Falls L, NC dam 4 May (Ricky Davis), and at Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 9 May (John Haire).

GLAUCOUS GULL: A first-winter Glaucous Gull at Atlantic Beach, NC 12 April (John Fussell) was interesting since there were very few individuals of this species in the Carolinas this winter.

GULL-BILLED TERN: One at the Futch Game Land impoundments, Tyrrell County, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis) was rather unusual for that location. This species normally stays right along the coastal beaches.

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland count reported was the 11 at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 10 April (Steve Shultz). Far to the west were two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 12 April (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and one at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 11 May (Aaron Steed).

BLACK TERN: One at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 12 May (Eric Dean) was the only inland one reported this spring.

COMMON TERN: Good inland finds at Falls L., NC included two 27 April (Will Cook) and another one 29 April (Brian Bockhahn) and 2 May (Dave Lenat).

FORSTER'S TERN: The best inland counts reported were four at Dreher Is. St. Pk., SC 4 April (Jason Giovannone) and three at upper Falls L., NC 27 April (Will Cook). One far to the west at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 12 April (Bob Olthoff et al.) provided a locally interesting sighting.

POMARINE JAEGER: The peak offshore count noted this spring was the 10–12 off Hatteras, NC 26 April (Brian Patteson, Inc.). One was observed from shore near Frisco, NC 26 May, as noted by Ricky Davis.

PARASITIC JAEGER: This species is somewhat harder to find in the Carolinas during spring than the preceding species. This year's reports included one seen from shore at Figure Eight Is., NC 19 April (Derb Carter) and another from C. Hatteras point, NC 8 May (Jerry Talkington).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, two were noted off Hatteras, NC 26 April (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

DOVEKIE: One was found dead at the North Topsail Beach side of New River Inlet, NC 13 March (Greg Massey). This was not surprising since there was a mild flight of this species into North Carolina this winter.

COMMON MURRE: North Carolina's second documented Common Murre was an adult in alternate plumage that was picked up at Emerald Isle 2 April (John Fussell). The bird was obviously not healthy and died about a month later in a wildlife shelter.

RAZORBILL: One in Pamlico Sound near the village of Ocracoke, NC 17 March (John Fussell) was the last one reported from the past winter's flight.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: South Carolina had the only reported White-winged Doves this spring with singles at Loris 20–22 April (Joe Gyekis, Lois Snively) and on James Is. 20 April (Billy McCord, *fide* Nate Dias).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One was very early at L. Norman St. Pk., NC 23 March, as noted by Tomm Lorenzin.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: One was rather early at Tanglewood Pk., Forsyth County, NC 19 April (*fide* Phil Dickinson). Other Black-billeds reported came from the mountains, as one would expect. Singles were in northern Watauga County, NC 13 May (Merrill Lynch), at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 18 May (Tom Tribble), and along the road to Max Patch, Haywood County, NC 24 May (*fide* Marilyn Westphal).

LONG-EARED OWL: Most amazing for the Carolinas was the group of four to five Long-eared Owls found coming in to roost in Wayne County, NC the morning of 1 March (Eric Dean). The birds were not found later that day or the next morning; most likely they were migrants and were on the move.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Two were heard west of Murray Branch along the road to Paint Rock, Madison County, NC 20 May (Kevin Caldwell). This species is very rare in the mountains and these birds probably represented the first record for that area. The late date makes one wonder if they were summering in that area!

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: One provided a rare spring occurrence at a feeder in Landrum, SC 12–15 April (John & Judy Mathies, sev. obs.). This bird was obviously a migrant because it did not winter at that location.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: One that wintered at a feeder on James Is., SC remained until at least 18 March (John Weinstein).

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER: Three seen at the North River Game Land, Camden County, NC 28 March (John Fussell) possibly represented a new location for the species.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Sightings of this species are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. Singles were found near Max Patch, Haywood County, NC 10 May (Ray & Sandy Sharpton), at Poplar Lane, Transylvania County, NC 17 May (Norma Siebenheller et al.), at Reynolda, Winston-Salem, NC 20–26 May (John Haire, sev. obs.), and at Weaverville, Buncombe County, NC 22–23 May (Herman & Gail Lankford).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This species is very rare as a spring migrant in the Carolinas, thus of note was one seen and heard at upper Falls L., NC 17 May (Les Todd).



Olive-sided Flycatcher, 21 May 2008, Winston-Salem, NC. Photo by John Haire.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Several individuals of this species were noted at Civitan Pk., Winston-Salem, NC from 9 May on into summer (John Haire, sev. obs.). This area is considered to be at the edge of the known breeding range in that part of the state.

EASTERN PHOEBE: One at Havelock, Craven County, NC 17 May (John Fussell) was not seen a week later and probably represented a late wandering bird. The normal breeding range for this species does not extend that far toward the coast.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The Monroe, NC breeding pair returned by 22 May (Blayne & Anne Olsen). The Southern Pines, NC breeding pair did not return; only a female was briefly seen 11 May and a second-year male was there 24 May (Scott Hartley). Elsewhere a migrant was discovered in the Mid-Pines Rd. area of Wake County, NC 22–24 May (Matt Daw and Becky Desjardins; Derb Carter, John Dole).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One was rather early in Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 21 March, as noted by Nate Dias.

WARBLING VIREO: The farthest east migrant noted was at Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Cape Fear River, Bladen County, NC 10 May (Ricky Davis). Also locally unusual was the pair found at Civitan Park, Winston-Salem, NC in late May (John Haire) with a nest being located there 31 May (Kim Brand).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Very rare as a spring migrant in the Carolinas, one was seen and heard at Yates Mill Pond, Wake County, NC 10 May (John Connors).

RED-EYED VIREO: Early spring returning birds included “several” in Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 21 March (Nate Dias) and one at L. Norman St. Pk., NC 23 March (Tomm Lorenzin).

“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER: This rarer of the two Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids was reported twice this spring. Males were found at Reynolda, Winston-Salem, NC 28 April (John Haire, Royce Hough) and along the road to Max Patch, Haywood County, NC 4 May (Jon & Glenda Smith).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was a good find at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 17 May (Nathan Swick), as this species is quite rare as a spring migrant in the eastern portions of the Carolinas.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Two reports somewhat east of the normal spring migration route through the mountains involved singles at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, NC 3 May (Ron Morris et al.) and at Latta Pk., Charlotte, NC 27 April (Kevin Metcalf).

NORTHERN PARULA: Not only were the 146 Northern Parulas counted in Congaree Nat. Pk., Richland County, SC 22 March (John Grego, *fide* Robin Carter) somewhat early, they probably provided a record count for one area in one day.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One was quite late at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 26 May (Ricky Davis).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Early spring migrants included one at Mayesville, SC 20 March (Evelyn Dabbs) and three in Francis Marion Nat. Pk., SC 21 March (Nate Dias). Rare for the mountains were singles at Williamson Creek, Transylvania County, NC 18 April (Bill & Norma Siebenheller, Elizabeth Galloway) and Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 26 April (Wayne Forsythe).

MOURNING WARBLER: Two reports of this rare migrant warbler were received this spring. One was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 2 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and one was at Spring Pk., Winston-Salem, NC 19 May (Bill Gifford, *fide* Phil Dickinson).

WILSON'S WARBLER: This species is rare along the coast in spring, thus of note were two different ones on Roanoke Is., NC 12 and 16 May (Jeff Lewis).

CANADA WARBLER: Locally good birds for the spring season away from the mountains were singles at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 11 and 17 May (Derb Carter, Nathan Swick).

WESTERN TANAGER: The male that wintered at a feeder in Conway, SC was last observed 30 March, as noted by Gary Phillips.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Several of the Clay-colored Sparrows that wintered near L. Phelps, NC were last noted 9 March (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere one was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 6 April (John Fussell et al.), also most likely a wintering individual.

VESPER SPARROW: Two in Duke For., Orange County, NC 10 April (Jeff Pippen) were locally unusual.

LARK SPARROW: An adult Lark Sparrow was seen feeding young in Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC 28 May (Jeff Catlin et al.). This represented the second breeding report for that state, the first with documentation (photos)!

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Two flushed near Havelock, NC in the Croatan Nat. For. 23 March (John Fussell et al.) most likely were locally wintering individuals.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: One at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 13 April (John Fussell et al.) was also most likely a wintering bird.

FOX SPARROW: One was quite late along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 29 April (John Buckman). This species normally departs the Carolinas by early April.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Rare spring reports of Lincoln's Sparrow involved one at upper Falls L., NC 27–29 April (Will Cook et al.; Derb Carter) and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 22 April (Steve Calver).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Several very late White-throated Sparrows were noted this spring, with one at Gastonia, NC 25 May (Steve Tracy) and two at Fort Mill, SC also on 25 May (Stephen Thomas).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One, an obvious spring migrant, was at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC 10 March (James Coman), a good find for that part of the state.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: One was quite early at Easley, SC 30 March, as noted by Linda Sharp.

INDIGO BUNTING: A male was early at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 6 April (Alan Kneidel).

DICKCISSEL: This spring's Dickcissel reports included a male along White House Rd., south of Columbia, SC 9 May (Caroline Eastman, Robin Carter) that was joined by a female 15 May (*fide* Carter); at least four males and a female along Mid-Pines Rd., Wake County, NC 10 May on into June (Jim Mulholland, Steve Shultz, John Ennis, m. obs.); one south of the Neuse River off NC 111, Wayne County, NC 17 May (Eric Dean); one near Oak City, Edgecombe County, NC 26 May (Merrill Lynch); and an excellent count of 20 singing males at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 25 May on into June (John Fussell et al.).

BOBOLINK: Probable breeders were at a field in Mills River, Henderson County, NC throughout May (Marilyn Westphal), an area where nesting has occurred in the past. The usual site at Bamboo, Watauga County, NC had at least 12 males throughout May into June (Curtis Smalling), and apparently ten nests were located this season.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: One was locally unusual at an overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Looking Glass, Haywood/Transylvania counties, NC 8 April, as noted by Chris Kelly.

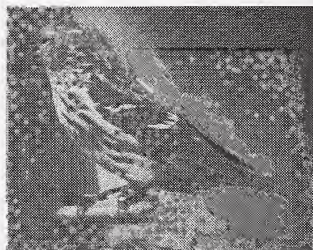
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Yellow-headed Blackbirds were good finds for the spring season with one at Alligator River NWR, NC 12 March (Jacob Socolar) and one at Goose Creek Res., Berkeley County, SC 27 March (*fide* Virginia Flatau). The Alligator River bird was most likely the same individual that wintered there this year.

SHINY COWBIRD: One of the few Shiny Cowbirds reported from the Carolinas the last several years was a male at Pea Is. NWR, NC 30 May, as noted by Marshall Iliff.

PURPLE FINCH: A female Purple Finch was rather late at Wilmington, NC 3–4 May (Sam Cooper).

RED CROSSBILL: The number of reports of Red Crossbill was higher than usual this spring. The best counts were six at Black Mountain, NC 27 April (Stu Gibeau) and four at Snowbird Lodge, Graham County, NC in late April (Simon Thompson). Elsewhere two were at Heintooga, Great Smoky Mountains, NC 24 May, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

COMMON REDPOLL: Very rare spring sightings of this winter finch involved up to two at a feeder in Coinjock, Currituck County, NC 3–14 March (Linda Ward, Skip Hancock, Chris Canfield) and one at Laurel Gap, Great Smoky Mountains, NC 18 April (Brian Bockhahn).



Common Redpoll, 14 Mar 2008, Coinjock, NC. Photo by Skip Hancock.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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South Carolina

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2008 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

Jason Giovannone

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giovannonej@bellsouth.net

The spring count took place 26 April–10 May, and had 126 observers in 55 parties. They spread themselves out over nine counties and logged 511 hours covering 1954.4 miles, including twenty-two miles on bike and seven in golf carts. They tallied 55,758 individuals of 214 different species. Low temperatures ranged from 49 °F to 70 °F, and highs ranged from 74 °F to 86 °F. Weather was across the board and parties saw anything from picture-perfect days to downpours and periods of thunder and lightning. The state was still in a rain deficit, with the worst conditions being in the upstate.

The most numerous species was Semipalmated Sandpiper, with a total of 11,783 individuals found in three counties. Nearly 99% of those were found in Jasper County. Parties found 26 species of warblers. The top three warbler species were Pine Warbler with 389 individuals, Northern Parula with 251 individuals, and Common Yellowthroat with 182 individuals. Counties with the most species were Charleston with 148, Jasper with 141, Aiken with 124, and Greenville with 122.

Thirty-six species were recorded in every county: Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Forty species were found in only one county, with Jasper and Charleston County finding most. Species included: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mute Swan, Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Merlin, King Rail, Sora, American Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, American Pipit, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch.

Thanks again to everyone who participated. If anyone is interested in getting involved next year, please contact the county coordinator; or if you would like to coordinate a county not covered, contact me with any questions you may have.

County Summaries:

Aiken County: 124 species 4792 individuals

Coordinator: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Drive
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Luann Baer, Helen Belencan, Chuck Braun, Ron Brenneman, Lee Dane, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Gary Gray, Judy Gregory, Gene Howard, Christine Huzella, Pete Johnston, Paul Koehler, George Reeves, Gary Smith, Lois Stacey, Mark Vukovich, Alice Walker, Douglas Walker, Anne Waters, Eugene Zielinski, Calvin Zippler

Aiken was the only county to produce a Swallow-tailed Kite.

Charleston County: 148 species, 10,264 individuals

Coordinator: Andy Harrison
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7
Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Edwin L. Blich III, George D. Cromartie Jr., Bob Drew, Christie Drew, Connie Drew, Denise Ecker, Judy Fairchild, Virginia M. Flatau, Dennis M. Forsythe, Andy Harrison, Julian R. Harrison III, Margaret Harrison, Donald P. Jones, Mary Kennerty, Mary Catherine Martin, Keith L. McCullough, David C. McClean Jr., Kim Frampton McManus, Carl R. Miller, Catherine G. Miller, Steve Moore, Paul Nolan, Karen E. Nugent, Perry E. Nugent, Kenneth Priester, Edgar A. Russell, Felicia J. Sanders, David Francis Smith, Ruthie Sullivan, Craig Watson, John Weinstein, and Lori Sheridan Wilson.

Charleston had exclusives with Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Reddish Egret, King Rail, Sora, American Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Herring Gull, and Sandwich Tern.

Cherokee County: 76 species, 1123 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Claude Cobb, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Maxi Nix, Tina Pearsall

Cherokee had the high count for Cliff Swallow (30) and the inland high count for Spotted Sandpiper (10).

Edgefield County: 78 species, 821 individuals

Coordinator: Dennis M. Forsythe
171 Moultrie Street
Charleston, SC 29409

Participants: Dennis M. Forsythe

Edgefield had high counts for Chuck-will's-widow (25) and high inland counts for Great Blue Heron (27).

Greenwood County: 80 species, 986 individuals

Coordinator: Jason Giovannone
2808 Dalewood Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170

Participants: Jason Giovannone

Greenwood tied with Aiken for high counts for Whip-poor-will (10), and it was one of only two counties to report Blackburnian Warbler.

Greenville County: 122 species, 5627 individuals

Coordinator: J. B. Hines
5258 Chesnee Highway
Chesnee, SC 29323

Participants: Shelby Birch, Dee Blackwood, Harold Carter, Jeff Catlin, Jeff Click, Steve Compton, Donnie Coody, Don Faulkner, Chip Gilbert, Sarah Gilbert, Richard Hayes, Tammy Kay, Justin Keck, Jane Kramer, Tim Lee, Jim Pirrone, Merikay Pirrone, Al Reese, Hilda Reese, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Jade Torlina, Pam Torlina, Charles Webb, Judy Webb, Cindy Womble, Lewis Womble

Greenville had exclusives with Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, American Pipit, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Hampton County: 81 species, 656 individuals

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
PO Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924

Participants: Kathleen O'Grady, Carroll Richard

Hampton was one of only two counties to report Ring-necked Duck.

Jasper County: 141 species, 28,527 individuals

Coordinator: Steve Wagner
313 E. 54th Street
Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Steve Calver, Diana Churchill, Ellie Covington, Tim Miller, Steve Wagner

Jasper had exclusives with Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mute Swan, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Roseate Spoonbill, Merlin, American Avocet, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, and Caspian Tern.

Spartanburg County: 116 species, 2992 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
 126 Greengate Lane
 Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Carole Anderson, Beth Bartel, Susan Bennett, Dan Bryant, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Jeannie Chapman, Elaine Check, Dan Codespoti, Pat Fowler, Roy Fowler, Nancy Gergen, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Herb Kay, Angela Miller, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller, Moss Miller, Sam Miller, Nancy Owens, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Doug Rayner, Alicia Roy, Mack Shealy, Gerald Thurmond, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg had exclusives with Magnolia Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch. The county also had high counts of Northern Bobwhite (11), Rock Pigeon (51), Common Nighthawk (12), Horned Lark (2), House Wren (6), and House Finch (76).

Table 1 Spring 2008 bird counts in South Carolina

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Date:	10 May	4 May	17 May	10 May	9 May	26 Apr	10 May	10 May	10 May	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck								6		6
Canada Goose	68	11	23	6	16	117	7		115	363
Mute Swan								7		7
Wood Duck	50	32		13	2	31	4	6	4	142
Mallard	11			2	3	80	5	51	43	195
Mottled Duck		22						86		108
Blue-winged Teal		10				1		4		15
Ring-necked Duck							1	1		2
Greater Scaup								1		1
Lesser Scaup						2		3		5
Scaup sp.								2		2
Red-breasted Merganser		7								7
Ruddy Duck								16		16
Wild Turkey	35	1	15	1	2	10		5	4	73
Northern Bobwhite	8		8	1			1	1	11	30
Pied-billed Grebe		2								2
Horned Grebe		1								1
Brown Pelican		128						1		129
Double-crested Cormorant	5	196				8	1	128	29	367
Anhinga	10	15		1		1	6	55		88
American Bittern	1					2				3
Least Bittern		4						4		8
Great Blue Heron	10	49	5	27	6	6		9	10	122
Great Egret	12	171		2		2	6	41		234
Snowy Egret		58						337		395
Little Blue Heron	9	28					6	13		56
Tricolored Heron		14						75		89
Reddish Egret		1								1
Cattle Egret	83	21				7	6	14		131
Green Heron	13	48	1				1	7	1	71

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Black-crowned Night-Heron		12						13		25
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	6					4	1		12
White Ibis		39					22	53		114
Glossy Ibis		33						23		56
Roseate Spoonbill								2		2
Wood Stork		3					2	6		11
Black Vulture	70	34	10	8	6	5	18	21	15	187
Turkey Vulture	38	126	6	11	11	45	13	25	20	295
Osprey	1	35	6		2	2		3	1	50
Swallow-tailed Kite	1									1
Mississippi Kite	22	28					2	9		61
Bald Eagle	2						2	1		5
Northern Harrier						1		1		2
Cooper's Hawk			1		2	1			1	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	10	2	1		14	5	3	8	64
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1				3			2	7
Red-tailed Hawk	15	4	3		4	12	1	4	11	54
American Kestrel	1	1			1					3
Merlin								1		1
Peregrine Falcon		3				1				4
Clapper Rail		18						8		26
King Rail		4								4
Sora		1								1
Purple Gallinule							1	20		21
Common Moorhen	1	37					3	47		88
American Coot		2						50		52
Black-bellied Plover		145						6		151
Wilson's Plover		5						4		9
Semipalmated Plover	1	870						403		1274
Killdeer	29	9	27	6	1	40		42	25	179
American Oystercatcher		301								301
Black-necked Stilt		13						229		242
American Avocet								98		98
Spotted Sandpiper	9	105	10			3		19	7	153
Solitary Sandpiper	15					9		7	1	32
Greater Yellowlegs	2	32						27		61
Willet		99						46		145
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	15						144		161
Whimbrel		220								220
Marbled Godwit		1								1
Ruddy Turnstone		41								41
Red Knot		90								90
Sanderling		30								30
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	145						11636		11783
Western Sandpiper		107								107
Least Sandpiper	85	116						216	7	424
White-rumped Sandpiper								12		12
Dunlin		1169						438		1607
Stilt Sandpiper								967		967
Short-billed Dowitcher		205						313		518

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Long-billed Dowitcher								75		75
Dowitcher sp.		2000						226		2226
Wilson's Phalarope								1		1
Bonaparte's Gull		2						5		7
Laughing Gull		470						28		498
Ring-billed Gull		1			6	11		206	2	226
Herring Gull		1								1
Least Tern		72						144		216
Gull-billed Tern		30						11		41
Caspian Tern								1		1
Forster's Tern		23						12	6	41
Royal Tern		14						1		15
Sandwich Tern		3								3
Black Skimmer		16						8		24
Rock Pigeon	25	21	13	8		8	2	5	51	133
Eurasian Collared-Dove	20			2			2		3	27
Mourning Dove	241	41	74	36	26	225	33	58	147	881
Common Ground-Dove		3						6		9
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	21	33		1		1	3	5	2	66
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	12	2	1	1	1				19
Great Horned Owl			2		2	3				7
Barred Owl	9	17		1		4	1			32
Common Nighthawk	11	6	1					3	12	33
Chuck-will's-widow	19	20	1	25	3	2			17	87
Whip-poor-will	10	1	7	3	10	2			7	40
Chimney Swift	66	16	30	15	25	95	9	18	94	368
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	18	4	2		3	14	2	3	10	56
Belted Kingfisher	3	3	2			14			4	26
Red-headed Woodpecker	28	6		1		2	7	3	6	53
Red-bellied Woodpecker	90	37	13	9	12	65	8	18	38	290
Downy Woodpecker	26	9	3		3	24		3	22	90
Hairy Woodpecker	4	4							1	9
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	14	10					1			25
Northern Flicker	5	3			1	6			4	19
Pileated Woodpecker	34	24	4	3	3	27	3	2	7	107
Eastern Wood-Pewee	44	4	5	4	12	3	7		10	89
Acadian Flycatcher	35	5	4	1	9	1	3	2	14	74
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.		1						1	1	3
Eastern Phoebe	11		7	5	14	46			28	111
Great Crested Flycatcher	108	180	8	15	14	40	9	30	30	434
Eastern Kingbird	50	11	11	10	9	28	9	24	35	187
Loggerhead Shrike	8			2			5		2	17
White-eyed Vireo	88	62	5	10	6	41	3	15	13	243
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	2	1		2			3	1	17
Blue-headed Vireo	1					28			3	32
Red-eyed Vireo	60	80	25	12	18	103	7	12	61	378
Blue Jay	105	46	53	11	12	255	15	11	74	582

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
American Crow	119	69	41	13	39	181	8	24	128	622
Fish Crow	54	17		4	1	14	6	13	1	110
Crow sp.							16			16
Common Raven						1				1
Horned Lark	1								2	3
Purple Martin	72	41	11	55	28	61	67	11	53	399
Tree Swallow	8	104				40		10006	10	10168
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7	9	3	1	11	74		4	16	125
Bank Swallow							1	2		3
Cliff Swallow	1		30	10	8				16	65
Barn Swallow	56	108	25	55	31	219	42	42	37	615
Carolina Chickadee	89	71	20	15	18	120	4	14	61	412
Tufted Titmouse	97	61	29	19	42	147	7	16	69	487
Red-breasted Nuthatch						2				2
White-breasted Nuthatch	16		4			18		2	8	48
Brown-headed Nuthatch	37	31	2	2	2	8	2	9	6	99
Carolina Wren	112	88	13	20	18	122	5	41	49	468
House Wren	1					2			6	9
Marsh Wren		2						1		3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet						10				10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	57	37	5	1	59	95	14	31	47	346
Eastern Bluebird	71	32	37	18	18	94	15	6	69	360
Veery						1				1
Swainson's Thrush						4			1	5
Wood Thrush	12	2	5	1	5	30	2	1	11	69
American Robin	49	1	30	4	8	302			84	478
Gray Catbird	10	15	3		2	29	4	5	11	79
Northern Mockingbird	102	42	64	22	32	134	31	41	132	600
Brown Thrasher	26	25	14	8	10	55	13	33	47	231
European Starling	120	19	113	3	15	122	3	2	105	502
American Pipit						10				10
Cedar Waxwing	248			35	12	52		90	41	478
Northern Parula	85	85	1	8	17	14	5	15	21	251
Yellow Warbler		1		2	1	2		1	2	9
Chestnut-sided Warbler						2				2
Magnolia Warbler									1	1
Cape May Warbler						5				5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4					17			1	22
Yellow-rumped Warbler		3				35		1		39
Black-throated Green Warbler	1					63			1	65
Blackburnian Warbler	1				1					2
Yellow-throated Warbler	18	24	1	4	7	6	8	14	19	101
Pine Warbler	130	66	14	30	40	51	11	21	26	389
Prairie Warbler	9	13		3	8	3	1	3	4	44

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Palm Warbler						3				3
Blackpoll Warbler								1	1	2
Black-and-white										
Warbler	9	5				33				47
American Redstart	26					7		3	5	41
Prothonotary										
Warbler	37	38	2	2	1	3	7	4	2	96
Worm-eating										
Warbler		1				10	1			12
Swainson's Warbler	3	1			1			3	1	9
Ovenbird	1		1	1	2	44			3	52
Northern										
Waterthrush						1		3		4
Louisiana										
Waterthrush	10		2		1	9			2	24
Kentucky Warbler	5	3	1	3					2	14
Common										
Yellowthroat	12	29	12	11		51	1	47	19	182
Hooded Warbler	21	40	2		3	73		4	6	149
Yellow-breasted										
Chat	42	27	7	8	6	17	4	20	15	146
Summer Tanager	69	20	2	15	27	4	9	8	21	175
Scarlet Tanager	2			1	2	33	1		6	45
Eastern Towhee	103	50	23	10	18	133	4	20	48	409
Bachman's Sparrow	22	10		1			1	6		40
Chipping Sparrow	17		11	12	20	56	11	1	35	163
Field Sparrow	5		16	2	3	72			36	134
Savannah Sparrow		1				23		9	2	35
Grasshopper										
Sparrow			4			10			6	20
Song Sparrow						37			17	54
White-throated										
Sparrow	2					51			8	61
Dark-eyed Junco						2				2
Northern Cardinal	337	221		35	40	223	19	67	134	1076
Rose-breasted										
Grosbeak	2					7			4	13
Blue Grosbeak	36	27		8	8	11	9	12	14	125
Indigo Bunting	141	36		12	41	33	2	20	77	362
Painted Bunting	12	57					3	17		89
Bobolink	8	8				206		150	27	399
Red-winged										
Blackbird	140	251	34	12	12	203	28	663	59	1402
Eastern Meadowlark	16	7	28	6	5	106			30	198
Rusty Blackbird									2	2
Common Grackle	142	68	82	50	34	214	20	10	106	726
Boat-tailed Grackle		94						271		365
Brown-headed										
Cowbird	37	37	14	14	16	34	10	10	23	195
Orchard Oriole	11	11	1	14	2	5	4	18	3	69
Baltimore Oriole						4			1	5
Purple Finch									14	14
House Finch	40	22	13	1	3	48	6		76	209
American Goldfinch	20		6	2	5	229			63	325
House Sparrow	53	7	7	14	26	35	5		19	166
Total Species	124	148	76	78	80	122	81	141	116	214

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Total Individuals	4792	10264	1123	821	956	5627	656	28527	2992	55758
Observers	22	32	5	1	1	27	2	6	30	126
Parties	13	10	5	1	1	11	1	3	10	55
Hours Foot	43.5	34.3	6	2	0.5	141	7.25	9	38.25	281.8
Hours Car	35.25	21.2	4	11.45	10	18	4	17.25	10.5	131.65
Hours Boat	1	3.5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	9.5
Hours Bike	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.5
Hours Golfcart	1.5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.5
Miles Foot	23	16.85	6	3	1	53.3	3	4.5	22	132.65
Miles Car	310.5	136.8	120	205	118	186.7	89.2	134	337	1637.2
Miles Boat	1	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	15
Miles Bike	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	19	22
Miles Golfcart	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Hours Feeder Watch	8.5	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	36	61.5
# Feeder Watchers	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	19	29
# Feeder Stations	20	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	13	36
Hours Owling	3.5	3.25	1	1.5	1	1	0	0	4.5	15.75
Miles Owling	14	25.25	3	40	5	1.3	0	0	52	140.55
# Parties Owling	3	2	3	1	1	2	0	0	4	16
# Observers Owling	3	5	4	1	1	2	0	0	5	21
Start Time	0500	0445		0430	0445		0635	0604		
Finish Time	2025	1530		1800	1630		1750	2009		

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Range Expansion of Hermit (*Catharus guttatus*) and Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*) in the Southern Appalachians

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The Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) breeds in the western mountains and from Alaska across Canada to the New England states, and south in the higher peaks of the Appalachian Mountains to the Black Mountains of North Carolina. Recent range maps for the Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) show a similar range, but not extending as far south in either the eastern or western portions. In New England the range is limited to the more northern states and to the Appalachian Mountains. South of New England, Swainson's Thrush is limited to the higher peaks, with the range extending to West Virginia, and more recently, Virginia. This report documents evidence of range expansion of these two species in the southern Appalachians.

Hermit Thrush

Breeding Range in the Eastern US

In the eastern US the Hermit Thrush breeds in northeastern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and Michigan, throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, through most of New York and northwestern New Jersey, from northern Pennsylvania at elevations over 1,200 meters south in the Appalachian Mountains to southeastern West Virginia, and in isolated populations in Virginia and North Carolina (Jones and Donovan 1996).

Prior to 1979 the Mount Rogers/Whitetop Mountain area of Virginia was considered the southernmost limit for breeding Hermit Thrushes in the Appalachians. On 7 June 1979 Potter and LeGrand (1980) reported a singing male on Roan Mountain in Mitchell County, North Carolina. In 1983 a singing male was found in June at Mount Mitchell (LeGrand 1984) and another in June 1984 (LeGrand 1986). Subsequent nesting season observations include Unaka Mountain in Mitchell County, 8 July 1992 (LeGrand 1993) and the Polls Gap area of Haywood County from June 2000 to present (multiple observers). The species has been of regular occurrence during the breeding season in the higher elevations of the Black Mountains since the initial report (Simpson, 1992). On 30 June 1995 seven singing Hermit Thrushes were at Mount Mitchell (Davis 1996), and five were at Roan Mountain in 1997 (Davis 1998). On 21 June 2001 Rebecca Browning (2003) found three Hermit Thrush fledglings at Walker Knob near Balsam Gap in the Black Mountains. Hermit Thrushes continue to be observed during the breeding season in the Black Mountains, Grandfather Mountain, Roan Mountain, and between Spruce Mountain and Polls Gap in the northern Great Balsams, and numbers have been increasing in some areas. Seventeen were counted on 27 May 2006 during the Black Mountains spring bird count, and 19 were counted during the count on 26 May 2007. Subsequent surveys in that area in June and July found singing Hermit Thrushes along the Blue Ridge Parkway and along most hiking trails in the spruce/fir zone of the Black Mountains.

Laughlin's Hermit Thrush surveys in spring and summer 2007 found numerous Hermit Thrushes in the Black Mountains as well as a singing male at Craggy Gardens that remained through June and July, which was also observed by Westphal, Murdock, and others.

In the southern Great Balsam Mountains, Hermit Thrushes had previously been heard singing in April and early May, but the species was first noted during the breeding season in 2005. On 16 and 17 June 2005 Simpson heard two Hermit Thrushes across from Courthouse Valley Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The birds were at least 100 yards apart. On 16 June he heard one singing on the ridge running northwest from Chestnut Bald (visible from the Devil's Courthouse parking area). Later in June and in July, Westphal heard five Hermit Thrushes along the Blue Ridge Parkway between Graveyard Fields and Rough Butt Bald Overlook, but most often near Devil's Courthouse, Courthouse Valley Overlook, and Rough Butt Bald Overlook.

From June through August 2006 Westphal again heard Hermit Thrushes in the southern Great Balsam Mountains, although less frequently with single birds at Bearpen Gap Overlook 31 May, Courthouse Valley Overlook 11 June, Rough Butt Bald Overlook 30 July, and Black Balsam in August. All birds heard or observed during the breeding season were above 5000 feet.

In 2007 Laughlin observed Hermit Thrushes in the southern Great Balsam Mountains 15 times as follows:

25 May and 5 June—two singing in Middle Prong Wilderness, one at the bottom edge and one near the top of a grassy bald (also seen by Westphal and T. Tribble on 25 May)

30 May—one at Devil's Courthouse on the trail to the top (Two were heard at this location by Simpson in early and mid-May.)

9 June and 8 July—one in the valley between Ivestor Gap trail and the trail to Sam Knob

13 June—one singing at milepost 428.4

24 June—one singing on Rough Butt Bald

24 June—one singing on Balsam Knob between the summit and the parkway (closer to summit)

8 July—one singing at the edge of a large field on the Sam Knob Trail

8 July—two singing along the Art Loeb Trail west of Ivestor Gap Trail (away from Black Balsam Knob)

14 July—one heard singing north of Devil's Courthouse parking area

14 July—one heard at Courthouse Valley Overlook, and one about 0.2 miles south of this overlook. The Courthouse Valley Overlook bird was also heard by Westphal on 30 June. Simpson found birds here in June 2005.

14 July—one singing south of parkway at Wolf Mountain Overlook

14 July—one singing at milepost 427.1, just east of Rough Butt Bald

Although no proof of breeding has yet been found in the Great Balsams, the presence of territorial males for the past three years is compelling evidence of the expansion of the species' breeding range in the southern Appalachians of North Carolina. The first singing male was found in the Black Mountains in 1979, but the first proof of breeding did not come until 2001. The long time interval between first discovery of the species and proof of breeding is probably because of the secretive nature of thrushes, the density of the vegetation, and the difficulty of traversing the terrain.

This new southern limit in the Great Balsams ($35^{\circ}18'N$) is approximately 50 miles (straight-line distance) southwest of the previously described southern limits in the Black Mountains and adjacent Great Craggies ($35^{\circ}43'N$), and approximately 25 miles (straight-line distance) southeast of Polls Gap ($35^{\circ}33'N$). Although Hermit Thrushes had been heard in this area during migration periods in April and early May prior to 2005, ours are the first reports during the breeding season in the area from Devils Courthouse to Richland Balsam and Wolf Mountain, which had been extensively worked by Simpson and others since the late 1950s.

Breeding Habitat

In the US the Hermit Thrush is a bird of the interior forest that favors internal forest edges such as pond and meadow edges and areas disturbed by logging, drilling, utility cuts, wind, and fire, as well as mountain bogs and glades (Jones and Donovan 1996). In Pennsylvania Hermit Thrushes are most common in extensive northern hardwood forests where a population increase of 9% per year since 1980 has been noted on Breeding Bird Survey routes (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). They also inhabit cool, damp, mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, both mature and second growth, at

higher elevations (above 1500 feet in the northern part of the state, and above 2000 feet in the southern part of the state) usually in well-forested areas, but also edges and small clearings within wooded areas (Brauning 2000). In West Virginia Hermit Thrushes are most numerous in mixed spruce-northern hardwood forests, or at the edge of mountain bogs in pure spruce forest. However, they are less common in pure spruce forest when Swainson's Thrushes are present (Hall 1983). In Virginia Hermit Thrushes are found in the mixed spruce-fir and northern hardwood forests of Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain.

Until recent years, in North Carolina Hermit Thrushes have been found exclusively in the spruce/fir or mixed coniferous/northern hardwood zones. Major canopy species include Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*), red spruce (*Picea rubens*), mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), yellow birch (*Betula allegheniensis*), mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*), and pin cherry or fire cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*). However, the individual found in the Great Craggy Mountains in 2007 was in an area of rhododendron thickets with a mix of largely yellow birch and mountain ash. In the southern Great Balsam Mountains the areas of spruce/fir are much less extensive, and Hermit Thrushes were largely found in mixed coniferous/deciduous areas, and often in the absence of spruce/fir (Laughlin, unpubl.). All individuals thus far have been found above 5,000 feet. The Hermit Thrush will likely continue its expansion into suitable habitat in the mountains of North Carolina.

Swainson's Thrush

Breeding Range in the Eastern US

Swainson's Thrush breeds through northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan and in the mountain ranges of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, western Massachusetts, the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains of New York, and the Allegheny High Plateau of northern Pennsylvania, with disjunct populations in the spruce belt of West Virginia (Mack and Yong 2000). In 1966 Swainson's Thrushes were discovered during the breeding season at Mount Rogers in southwestern Virginia (Scott 1966). The population on Mount Rogers has been confined largely to the highest elevations around the summit (Shelton 1976) although individual birds were also noted in June 2007 at Big Pinnacle in nearby Grayson Highlands State Park by Simpson. In 1986 the Virginia Society of Ornithology Foray members found both Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes in spruce on the summit of Beartown Mountain in Tazewell County, Virginia (Peake 1987, 2001). Subsequently Shelton (pers. comm.) found both species there through the early 2000s, but only three or four singing Swainson's Thrushes. Shelton also found one singing Swainson's Thrush in hemlocks around High Knob Lake, Wise County, Virginia in June and July 2000 and 2001, but not subsequently.

In North Carolina the first indication of possible breeding occurred in June 2005 when R. Davis (pers. comm.) found one Swainson's Thrush

singing at Roan Mountain, but the bird was not relocated. Also in June 2005 K. and L. Reynolds (pers. comm.) heard what they believed was a Swainson's Thrush singing along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail near Balsam Gap in the Black Mountains, but positive identification could not be made. Then on 27 May 2006 during the Black Mountains spring bird count, Westphal heard a Swainson's Thrush in the Black Mountains west of Blackstock Knob. That bird could have been a late migrant. On 26 May 2007 during the Black Mountains spring bird count, Murdock and Westphal heard four Swainson's Thrushes between Balsam Gap and Potato Knob. Such observations in the same area suggested possible breeding activity. On 10 June, Simpson heard two thrushes singing in the area of Rainbow Gap. Subsequently, during every weekend in June and July 2007, either Westphal, Murdock, Simpson, or all three searched the area between Balsam Gap and Potato Knob. During that time they discovered six distinct territories with one thrush seen regularly, two others seen once or twice, and the other three only heard.

Two singing males occupied adjacent territories approximately 0.25 mile west of Blackstock Knob. Another male on territory was about 0.5 mile south of Rainbow Gap, and three more adjacent territories were between 0.25 and 0.5 mile southeast of Rainbow Gap. These six birds remained in the same general locations throughout June and July. The observers found no proof of nesting during this time, but the consistent locations and singing suggests that the birds were nesting. This expanded range into the Black Mountains, at latitude 35°44'N, lies 78 miles southwest of the previous southern extent of the breeding range for Swainson's Thrush at Mount Rogers, at latitude 36°40'N.

In 2008, the authors surveyed three areas above 5000 feet elevation in the Black Mountains and contiguous Blue Ridge range. The most thorough coverage involved the five-mile section of the south rim of the Black Mountains between Balsam Gap and Black Mountain Gap, where the authors conducted multiple surveys between 25 May and 12 July. Swainson's Thrushes were recorded on numerous visits, and the behaviors were consistent with four to six territorial males, occupying essentially the same areas noted in 2007. One isolated record was also reported at 0.4 miles southeast of Balsam Gap at an elevation of 5480 feet. As in 2007, no proof of nesting was discovered.

The other two survey routes for 2008 included the five-mile stretch of NC Route 128, which follows the east rim of the Black Mountains from its junction with the Blue Ridge Parkway to the summit parking lot at Mt. Mitchell, and the Blue Ridge Parkway from Black Mountain Gap north to milepost 353. Simpson surveyed these two routes on six occasions in June and July, but found no evidence of Swainson's Thrushes.

Other Ranges

Elsewhere in the southern Blue Ridge province, Bill Sullivan (pers. comm.) reported a singing Swainson's Thrush on 29 June 2008 near the summit of Mt. LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountains, suggesting that the

species may be continuing its southward expansion. However, field work by Simpson in June and July 2007 and 2008 failed to detect Swainson's Thrushes at other localities in the Great Smoky Mountains (Newfound Gap to Clingman's Dome), northern Great Balsam Mountains (Poll's Gap to Spruce Mountain), the Plott Balsam Mountains (Blue Ridge Parkway), southern Great Balsam Mountains (Roy Taylor Forest Overlook to Tanasee Bald), Pisgah Ridge (Devil's Courthouse to Black Balsam Knob), Grandfather Mountain, Roan Mountain, and Unaka Mountains. Observers working these areas in the future should be alert for evidence of Swainson's Thrushes during the nesting season.

Breeding Habitat

In general, Swainson's Thrushes are closely associated with coniferous forest. Canopy closure, understory cover, tree density, and a conifer component are important habitat attributes. Nesting locations in the northern US and Canada occur in old growth, mature, and young forests. Where this species overlaps with other closely related thrush species, mutually exclusive ranges are partitioned by elevation, foraging tactics, and differential use of habitat structure (Mack and Yong 2000).

In Pennsylvania the largest population of Swainson's Thrush is in old-growth forest in the High Plateau-Allegheny Mountains (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). In West Virginia a small but healthy disjunct population exists in the higher mountains in the spruce belt. Greatest numbers are in pure spruce forest of any age, but Swainson's Thrushes are also found in the spruce-northern hardwood forest (Buckelew and Hall 1994). In Virginia a small, disjunct population is found in the high elevation spruce/fir forest of Mount Rogers. Phil Shelton reports that the population around the summit of Mount Rogers has remained stable with about six to eight singing males every year. There were one or two summer resident males at nearby Whitetop Mountain through 2006, but an infestation of southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) in the occupied spruce stand may have eliminated this population or caused it to move (Phil Shelton pers. comm.).

In the Black Mountains of North Carolina all individuals are found at elevations between 5400 and 6000 feet in dense forest with largely red spruce canopy and an understory of mainly young Fraser fir. Although Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) could all be heard within the same area, we saw only Veeries within what were likely Swainson's Thrush territories. Hermit Thrush territories seemed to be somewhat scattered. In other areas of the eastern U.S. where these three species overlap, territories are often separated by elevation, with Swainson's Thrushes occupying the higher elevations. In the Black Mountains this was not the case, as all three thrush species inhabited the same area. Habitat separation was not clearly evident, but further study is needed. Foraging habits may differ among the three species, thus reducing competition. Also, Hermit Thrushes arrive in early to mid-April, Veeries in late April and early May, and Swainson's Thrushes in mid- to late May.

Study of the population of Swainson's Thrushes in the Black Mountains will continue in spring 2009 to search for further confirmation of breeding and to look for possible population expansion. Additional surveys are planned in 2009 for other ranges in the southern Blue Ridge where suitable habitat occurs.

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Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) Documented in Carteret County, North Carolina

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On the morning of 4 November 2007, the authors conducted a survey of birds at North River Farms in central Carteret County, NC. This wetland restoration area is located near the North River estuary, north of the communities of Bettie and Otway. In the late morning, while we were working along the prominent shrub line that forms the north boundary of the property, we discovered a bird we soon identified as a Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*).

We first noticed the bird because of its whiny, scolding calls, which we assumed to be the calls of a White-eyed Vireo (*V. griseus*). Because the bird was deep in the shrub vegetation, we played the White-eyed Vireo song and calls on an iPod, and the bird came into view almost immediately. We then saw that although the bird was generally colored like a White-eyed Vireo, it was nevertheless different. It was obviously much slighter in build and had dark eyes and a very subtle face pattern. We quickly concluded that the bird was likely a Bell's Vireo, and we began to study the bird's various field marks to confirm our identification.

After our initial encounter, we played the song of Bell's Vireo on the iPod. The bird became very inquisitive and came as close as 3m in the edge of the roadside vegetation. During the next few minutes, the bird sang several times. Its song matched the Bell's Vireo recording perfectly. We also played the songs of Philadelphia (*V. philadelphicus*) and Warbling (*V. gilvus*) vireos to refresh our memories and to compare them to the song of this vireo.

Over the next half-hour we studied the bird in excellent light at extremely close range, often as close as the minimum focus on our 10x binoculars. As noted, the bird had the same basic color pattern as a White-eyed Vireo: greenish back, wings, and tail and yellow-tinged belly, flanks, and undertail coverts. The throat was white. The bird could be described as having "one-and-a-half" wing-bars in that the upper one was very faint. The bill had a typical vireo shape, moderately thick with a curved culmen, but it was relatively small. The irides were clearly seen to be brown. The grayish face at first appeared to be plain and unmarked, but closer inspection showed faint whitish spectacles and a faint eye-line. Because the eye-ring was broken by the eye-line, it might be best to describe it as two eye-crescents, one above and one beneath the eye. The legs were bluish or blue-gray, bluer legs than we had ever seen on a vireo before. Periodically the bird pumped its tail somewhat in the manner of a Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*), and it flicked its wings several times.

This bird seemed typical of the eastern population (mostly *V. bellii bellii*), as portrayed in Sibley (2000), in that it was relatively colorful. (Subspecies are based on Brown 1993.) Southwestern populations, consisting of *V. bellii arizonae* and *V. bellii pusillus*, are typically more grayish and plain. However, birds breeding in western Texas southward into adjacent Mexico (*V. bellii medius*) are reported to be intermediate in appearance (Sibley 2000; Joseph Morlan, pers. comm.), and an origin from this area could not be ruled out. In addition to appearance, the Palm Warbler-like tail-pumping is also consistent with the bird's being from the eastern portion of the species' range (Sibley 2000). Birds from the southwestern populations are reported to flick their tails like gnatcatchers.

The habitat at the site is a narrow strip of shrubs and young trees along a canal, bordered on both sides by vast fields and old fields. It resembles what Brinkley (2007) describes as typical habitat for the eastern population of the species.

Later in the afternoon, Fussell returned to the site with Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, John Dole, Harry LeGrand, and Jeff Pippen. Once again, we were able to observe the bird very closely. Davis, Dole, and Pippen obtained several excellent photographs (Fig. 1) of the bird. The photographs support the observations described above, especially in showing that the upper wing-bar was present but was quite faint. Photos taken in relatively poor light suggest that the bird had a plain gray face, but those taken with better light clearly show the faint spectacles.

Fussell returned to the area with several birders the next morning (5 November) and quickly relocated the bird. The vireo was last seen in the late afternoon of 5 November, by Fussell and Jeff Lewis. Efforts to relocate the bird on the morning of 8 November and following days were unsuccessful.

The NC Bird Records Committee has accepted this record of Bell's Vireo based on photos taken by Davis, Dole, and Pippen, and a written description provided by LeGrand (LeGrand et al. 2008). This is the second definitive record of the species in the state. The first was a bird seen and photographed at Carolina Beach State Park on 21 September 2006 by James Parnell (LeGrand et al. 2007).

There are also three previous sight reports not supported by photographs. The written details of a report from 2002 and another from 2006 were considered unacceptable by the NC Bird Records Committee (LeGrand et al. 2004, 2007). Another report of a Bell's Vireo from near Zebulon, Wake County on 10 Aug 1974 (Potter 1975) was accepted by the Committee (North Carolina Bird Records Committee 1990) but is in our opinion unconvincing, because the details do not rule out the possibility that the bird was a juvenile White-eyed Vireo. Specifically, Potter's (1975) belief that the presence of white spectacles eliminated the possibility of White-eyed Vireo is incorrect (Sibley 2000, 347).



Figure 1. Bell's Vireo found at North River Farms 4 November 2007. Note vireo bill, faint whitish spectacles, and presence of "one-and-a-half" wing-bars. Photo by Ricky Davis.

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Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—December 1958

E. Burnham Chamberlain published a paper titled *Bachman's Warbler in South Carolina* reporting on observations made of several Bachman's Warblers in I'on Swamp in 1950, 1951, 1952, 1955, and 1958. One of the 1950 birds was seen by a large group of people attending the spring CBC meeting. In 1958 photos and movies of Bachman's Warblers were taken, and one photo appeared on the cover of this issue of *The Chat*.

This issue carried a new revision of the club by-laws, and also the complete membership directory. In 1958 there were 1078 members, somewhat more than today's membership.

In General Field Notes, Kay Sisson (editor of *The Chat*) gave a detailed description of her sighting of a Long-tailed Jaeger at Pawleys Island, SC on 13 July 1958, the first report in the state for 50 years. John Funderburg reported seeing a Common Raven at Creswell, NC on 1 July 1958. He stated that there were two previous records from the NC coastal plain, near Beaufort in June 1892 and on Knotts Island near the VA state line in November 1931.

A brief report on the fall meeting at Charleston, 10–12 Oct 1958, states that 128 members and guests attended. Field trips observed 93 species.
— *Kent Fiala, editor*



Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 10 July 2008, Roanoke Island, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2008, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL: One was photographed in the Cape Fear River off of Ft. Fisher, NC 9 July (Mike Polito, *fide* Steve Emslie). The bird was in excellent plumage with no signs of wear, but the legs were not seen to see if there were any bands. It is practically impossible to know if this individual was a wild wanderer or an escape.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: An obviously non-breeding bird was present at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 17 June, as noted by Steve Calver.

CANVASBACK: A male summered at L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County, NC (John Buckman); a rather rare occurrence for this species in the Carolinas.

REDHEAD: A male with an injured wing was at Beaufort, NC 9 June (John Fussell), providing a somewhat unusual summer sighting.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Unusual summer sightings of non-breeding Ring-neckeds included males at L. Warren, Hampton County, SC from spring until 15 June (Carroll Richard) and at New Bern, NC the first two weeks of July (Olwen Jarvis).

LESSER SCAUP: One lingered at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC until at least 28 June (Steve Calver).

COMMON EIDER: Another lingering/summering waterfowl was a female Common Eider at Silver Lake, Ocracoke, NC 26 July (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis).

SURF SCOTER: A male Surf Scoter was in the Cape Fear River across from Ft. Fisher, NC 7 June (Ricky Davis). A few scoters are noted as lingering/summering almost every year somewhere in the Carolinas.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Rather unusual was the lingering female Red-breasted Merganser at L. Wheeler, Raleigh, NC 1 June, as noted by Steve Shultz. Most tardy individuals of this species tend to be found near the coast.

RUDDY DUCK: This species summered at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC in good numbers this year (37 on 11 June), and a pair with five young was noted 3 and 11 June (Steve Calver).

WILD TURKEY: One was a surprise and locally unusual at Pine Knoll Shores, Bogue Banks, NC throughout the summer (sev. obs., *fide* John Fussell).

PACIFIC LOON: A Pacific Loon in alternate plumage was totally unexpected at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 13–14 July (Sam Cooper). Summer records of this rare winter visitor are quite extraordinary.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: Six Black-cappeds were good finds about 57 miles off Murrells Inlet, SC 14 June (Murray Honick).

GREATER SHEARWATER: Only one was reported onshore this summer, that being at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 14 June (Steve & Barbara Thomas). This report probably means that fortunately there was not a major die-off of this species off the Carolinas this summer—much different from the last couple of years.

SWINHOE'S STORM-PETREL: North Carolina's second documented Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel was found off Hatteras 2 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.). The first documented Swinhoe's was also off Hatteras 8 August, 1998.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: The only one reported off North Carolina this summer was found off Hatteras 7 July (Brian Patteson, Inc.)

MASKED BOOBY: An adult Masked Booby was a good find off Hatteras, NC 7 July (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

ANHINGA: One at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 18 July (Ricky Davis) was locally unusual, but not unexpected, as this species has pushed much farther into the piedmont than this.

REDDISH EGRET: North Carolina Reddish Egret reports included immatures at Rich's Inlet 5 July (Derb Carter), at Hammocks Beach St. Pk. 25 July (John Haire), and at Lockwood Folly Inlet 30 July (Rob Rogers et al.). South Carolina birds included a white morph second-year bird at Bear Is. WMA 27 July (Nate Dias).

GLOSSY IBIS: One was observed over Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC 7 June (Will Cook et al.). This provided the first local report for the month of June.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: The only reports came from the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC where the species was present the entire summer and the peak count was an impressive 61 on 24 July (Steve Calver).

WOOD STORK: This species continues to increase in North Carolina, possibly due to the recent nesting colony in Columbus County. Several unusual inland reports well away from the outer Coastal Plain involved three circling over the North Toe River near Ingalls in s. Avery County 19 June (Jason Warner), two at the Yadkin River Canoe Access area in S. Davidson County 11–15 July (Gene Schepker et al.), two over Ferry Bridge Rd. west of Goldsboro 19 July (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), one over Walnut Creek east of Goldsboro 19 July (Dean, Howe), and seven near King, Stokes County 27 July (Christie Olsen, *fide* Phil Dickinson).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Four birds (two pairs) summered in the Cape Fear River area around the Lock and Dam No. 1 again this year. Still no nests have been located to document breeding in the state. Elsewhere one was a good find at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR 27 June (Neal Moore et al.), most certainly a wandering non-breeder.

NORTHERN HARRIER: Most unusual for mid-summer were the single Northern Harriers along Stella Rd., e. Onslow County, NC 19 June (Jamie Cameron) and at the VOA-A site in Beaufort County, NC 22 June (Ricky Davis). Were these birds just non-breeding summer wanderers? Also, one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 24 July (Steve Calver) was possibly just an early fall migrant.

PEREGRINE FALCON: One at Ridgeland, Jasper County, SC 5–13 July (Carroll Richard) defies categorization. Was it an early fall migrant or just a wandering non-breeder?

SORA: A Sora lingered at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth County, NC from the spring into the first week of June (Phil Dickinson), providing another interesting summer report for this species.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: One in basic plumage was photographed at the Bamboo, Watauga County, NC fields 26 June (Jim Parnell). Mid-summer occurrences of this species are very rare.

SNOWY PLOVER: One was present on both sides of Ocracoke Inlet, NC during June (National Park Service staff, *fide* Derb Carter) and one was at Hammocks Beach St. Pk., NC 21 July on into the fall season (Emily Rice,

sev. obs.). These apparently two different individuals provided the fourth and fifth records for that species in the state.

AMERICAN AVOCET: A very impressive count of 368 was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 17 June, as noted by Steve Calver. No nesting evidence was mentioned, thus indicating a larger-than-normal number of summering birds there this year.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: One at C. Romain NWR, SC 27 July (John Cottingham, *vide* Nate Dias) represented the first returning bird to this traditional wintering location.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: One at Straits, Carteret County, NC 29 June (Libby Liles, *vide* John Fussell) could have been a local nester, or a post-breeding wanderer.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The peak count of Wilson's Phalaropes at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC was 10 on 24 July (Steve Calver). This location consistently harbors this species in good numbers, more so than any other spot in the Carolinas.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: One at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 16 and 24 July (Steve Calver) was obviously a non-breeding summer wanderer.

SOOTY TERN: Four to six were good finds about 57 miles s. of Murrell's Inlet, SC 14 June, as noted by Murray Honick.

GULL-BILLED TERN: Most unusual away from beaches were two Gull-billeds at the Tidewater Res. Station, Roper, NC 29 June (Ricky Davis) and 19 July (Don Rote).

CASPIAN TERN: Possible early fall migrant Caspian Tern reports involved four at Beaverdam, Falls L., NC 19 June (Lynn Moseley, Ginger Travis, John & Joan Little) and one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 27 June (Ricky Davis).

PARASITIC JAEGER:

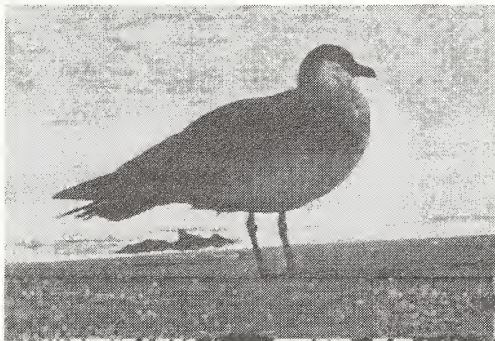
One uncharacteristically remained at Hammocks Beach St. Pk., NC from at least 25 July on into the fall season (John Haire, sev. obs.). There was no sign of apparent injury with this individual.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER:

Unusual was the presence of six singing Willow Flycatchers along Salem Creek, Winston-

Salem, NC for most of the summer (John Haire et al.). Nesting evidence was not obtained however.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The Monroe, NC pair returned in the spring and built a nest on the same tower as last year, but the nesting attempt failed due to the male's being killed by a car 9 June. The female was



Parasitic Jaeger, 25 July 2008, Hammocks Beach St. Pk. Photo by John Haire.

last seen 28 June (Anne Olsen). Elsewhere a rare summer wanderer was noted at Pactolus, Pitt County, NC 24 June (Carl Darden, *vide* Paula Wright).

WARBLING VIREO: A second nest of Warbling Vireo was found along Salem Creek, Winston-Salem, NC 8 June (Kim Brand, John Haire); the first was located there in late May. This nest fledged three young.

HORNED LARK: Good evidence of local nesting was gotten at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 29 June (John Fussell et al.) when a pair and two juveniles were noted. Actual nests of this species have still not been found in that county however.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Carteret County's first Cliff Swallow nests were found under a bridge near Newport, NC during late June to early July (Jack Fennell). This species has nested not too far away near New Bern, Craven County for several years now.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Five different birds in three different areas of South Mountains St. Pk., Burke County, NC were located in early June (Dwayne Martin). Interestingly, this species has been found there for three years in a row now!

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: One singing at Roan Mt., NC 2 June (Jeff Lewis) was either an extremely late spring migrant or a rare summering lingerer.

AMERICAN ROBIN: A female was locally unusual for the summer at Savannah NWR, SC 27 July (Jack Colcolough).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: A pair at Caesar's Head St. Pk., SC 12–13 June (Marion Clark) was probably nesting, as the male acted very territorial and the female was agitated. No actual nests have been found however.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Breeding season Magnolia Warbler reports included six at Roan Mt., NC 6 June (Rick Knight), two at Grandfather Mt., NC 3 June (Jeff Lewis), and one at Rough Ridge, Watauga County, NC 1–3 June (Lewis).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Very unusual was the male Yellow-rumped at Hilton Head Is., SC on the very late date of 14 June, as noted by Jack Colcolough.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: A female was caught at the MAPS banding station at Howell Woods, Johnston County, NC 24 June (James Sasser). This site is quite some distance from the normal breeding range of that species in the state.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One was very unusual at Hampton, SC 13 June–14 July (Carroll Richard), obviously a non-breeding lingerer.



Magnolia Warbler, 5 June 2008, Rough Ridge Trail. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

VESPER SPARROW: Three pairs were on Big Yellow Mt., Avery County, NC this summer and a nest with four eggs was actually discovered 18 June (Merrill Lynch).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: A male singing along NC 16/88 just east of Jefferson, Ashe County, NC 12 June (Merrill Lynch) provided a new breeding season location for this very localized breeder in that state.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: A male at a feeder at Kitty Hawk, NC 6–8 June (*fide* Jeff Lewis) was obviously a very late migrant.

DICKCISSEL: One was locally unusual at Beaverdam, Falls L., NC 3 July (Brian Bockhahn). The species was not found to be nesting anywhere nearby.

SHINY COWBIRD: The only report in the Carolinas this summer was of a male that visited a feeder briefly west of Hillsborough, NC 14 June (Randy Dunson).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: Quite unexpected was an immature Brown-headed at Round Bald, Roan Mt., NC area 31 July (Rick Knight). This species is most unusual at that elevation in that area.

RED CROSSBILL: Reports of this species away from the usual locations are always noteworthy. This summer's sightings included five at Rough Ridge, Watauga County, NC 1 June (Jeff Lewis) and 20+ at a feeder in s. Clay County, NC in mid-June (*fide* Nedra Sekera).

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